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THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLES OF ORKNAY AND ZETLAND.

With the Mapps of them, done from the accurat Observation of the moſt Learned who lived in theſe Iſles.

Publiſhed By S. R. S.[1] M. D.

EDINBURGH
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A DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLES OF ORKNAY

From the MS. of *Robert Monteith* Laird of *Eglisha & Gairsa*, dated *Kirkwall Sept.* 24 1633.

Pomona extends it self in length from the North North-west, to the East South-East, twentie four Miles *Scots*, and from North to South, from one to ten Miles in breadth. It contains an Episcopal Sea, the chief dwelling *Kirkwall*, wherein is a fair Cathedral Church dedicated to St. *Magnus*, containing a *Provestrie*, *viz.* a Provest (the Bishop) a Dean, seven benefieed Persons, and seven Prebends.

The Lands of this Island hold either of the King as Earl of *Orknay*, or of the Bishop; or are such Lands, as of old were named *ADEL*-lands, now vulgarly call'd *UDAL*-lands, which, by interpretation, is the old Inheritours Lands, which under the *Norvegians* government, were the Natives.

The Parish Churches in this Island are

1. *Kirkwall*. 2. St. *Andrews*. 3. *Deerness*. 4. *Holme*. 5. *Orphear*. 6. *Straine house*. 7. *Stromeness*. 8. *Sandvick*. 9. *Birsa*. 10 *Harray*. 11. *Evie*. 12. *Rendill*. 13. *Firth*.

Upon the Western Corner of *Pomona*, stands the palace of *Birsa*, within a Parish of that Name, now belonging to the Kings Majestie, a sumptuous and stately dwelling, founded by *Robert*, and finished by *Patrick*, Earls of *Orknay*, anciently it belonged to the Episcopal Sea of *Orknay*, the Earls of *Orknay* had it in Feu.

Nota. Robertus *Comes* Orcadiæ, *pater Patricii Comitis, filius spurius erat* Jacobi *quinti Regis* Scotorum.

Near to this palace westward, there lyes a little Grassie Island, called the Burgh of *Birsa*, about half a Mile in circumference, belonging to the Kings palace. The Ports belonging to this Isle are marked by an Anchor in the Map.

The Island of *Stroma* distant from *Caithness* two Miles, partly belonging to *George* St. *clare* Earl of *Caithness* and Lord *Berredail*, and partly to the Bishop of *Orknay*.

South from *Pomona* lyeth the Isle of *South Ranalsa*, six Miles in length, and betwixt four and five in breadth, with two little Isles or Holms, called *Pictland Skerries*, this Isle of *South-Ranalsa* contains two Parochial Churches, *Viz.* St. *Peter's*, and St. *Mary's*.

Betwixt *Pomona* and South *Ranalsa* lye the Isles of *Burra* and *Lame-holm*, with two little Isles called *Glumholm* and , good for Pasturage: in *Burra* is one parish Church.

In the midſt of *Pictland* Firth lye the Iſles of *Suina* and *Flotta*. *Suina* is about one Mile in length, and *Flotta* two Miles and a half. *Flotta* hath one Pariſh Church, theſe two Iſles belong in Heritage to *William Steuart* of *Mains*, brother to *Alexander* Earl of *Galloway*. To *Flotta* belong two little Iſles for paſturage, uninhabited, called *Suina* and the Calf of *Flotta*.

North from *Flotta* lyes a little Iſle called *Fary*, almoſt two Miles in length, it holds of the Biſhop, and in heritage belongs to the Laird of *Hacro*, and to it belongs a little Graſſie Iſle called *Ryſa*.

North from *Fara* lyeth a little Iſle called *Cava*, not much above a Mile in circumference, the inheritance of *Robert Hacro*, it held formerly of the *Friars* of *Innerneſs*, and now of the King, by vertue of the Act of Annexation.

North from *Cava*, lyes the Iſle of *Grameſay*, betwixt *Hoia* to the Weſt, and *Pomona* to the Eaſt and North, making a good paſſage to the Weſt Sea: it contains a pariſh Church.

Weſt of all the former little Iſles, lyeth the Iſle of *Hoy* and *Walles*, twelve Miles in length, and three in breadth, lying from South to North, yeilding the higheſt hills that are in all the *Orcades*: in this Iſle, are Hares and Conies: in ſome places it is covered with little ſhrubs, and Buſhes of Elder, Saugh and Birks, it contains two Pariſh Churches.

Weſt South-weſt from *Hoy* and *Walles*, about fourtie Miles, lye two great high Rocks, each diſtant from other about ſix Miles, called *Souliſkerrie* and the *Clett*, uninhabited, yeilding no commodity to the neighbouring inhabitants, but *Skarts* and *Solane Gees*: theſe two are reckoned to be of the *Orcades*.

North and Weſt from *Kirkwall*, lyes a little Iſle called *Damſa*, about half a Mile in circumference, anciently a *Nunnerye* was here ſited, it holds of the *Arch-dean* of *Orknay*, and a little from that lyes an Iſle called the Holm of *Grimbuſter*, and north from both, there lyes a little Rockie Island called the Holm of *Randell*.

Shapinſay is an Iſle of ſixteen Miles in length, and two Miles and an half in Breadth, it contains a Pariſh Church: this Iſle wholly belongs to the Epiſcopal Sea of *Orknay*: there belong to it two little Graſſie Iſles fit for paſturage, lying betwixt it and *Pomona*, called *Elger-holme* and *Theins-holm*: upon the Weſt of *Shapinſay*, there lyes a Graſſie Iſle called *Graſs-holm*, about half a Mile in circumference, diſtant from *Shapinſay* about three quarters of a Mile.

Direct Eaſt from *Pomona* lyes the Iſle of *Coupmanſha* (or the Merchants Iſle) about a Mile in Circumference, belonging to the King as Earl of *Orknay*: and from it towards the North, lyes a great high Rock, able to Graſs twentie Sheep, called the Horſe of *Coupmanſha*.

North North-eaſt from *Coupmanſha*, about twelve Miles, lyes the Iſle of *Stronſay*, about ſix Miles in length, and not above three in breadth, containing three Parochial Churches; it holds of the King as Earl of *Orknay*, containing three great Roads, and Harbours for Ships, turpaſſing all the other Iſles of the *Orcades* in Traffick.

South from *Stronſay*, betwixt it and *Coupinſay* Sound, ſix Miles diſtant on either ſide, lys an Iſle uninhabited, near three Miles in circumference, called *Ouſkerry*, it is the heritage of *Laurence St. clare*

who

who holds it feu of the King, for the yearly dutie of three *Barrels* of Train Oil.

North from *Stronſay*, lyes a little iſle called *Papa Stronſay*, near a Mile and a half in circumference, it holds of the King, and is the heritage of *James Scholy*, it makes a ſafe Road for the Fiſhermen to ly in betwixt it and *Stronſay*: and North and Weſt from it, lye three little Graſs Iſles uninhabited, belonging to *Stronſay*, called *Mickle Linga*, *little Linga*, and *Sigilholm*, all three hold of the King.

North and North-Eaſt from *Stronſay* lyes the Iſland of *Sanda*, fourteen Miles in length, and betwixt three and four in Breadth, containing three Parochial Churches, it holds of the King, and is very fertile in Barley and Oats, well inhabited, and defective in nothing, for the maintenance of mans life, but only of Fewell, which the inhabitants are forced to tranſport from the adjacent Iſles. The Coaſt of this, and alongſt the Iſle, is Low and Sandie, intermingled with dangerous Rocks, very dangerous, and unſafe for Ships, the whole Iſle affording but one little Harbour, and that not good, lying to the South: about the middle of the Iſle called *Hall houſe*, and at the mouth of the Harbour, lyes a little Iſle called the Holm of *Euſneſs*, and from it weſtward betwixt *Sanda* and *Stronſay*, lye the three little Graſs Iſles, belonging to the King, betwixt which there is no paſſage for Ships, but every one of them ſo interlaced in other with Rocks, from the North to the South, that there is no paſſage, for Ships: they are called the Holms of *Spurneſs*.

North and by Eaſt from *Sanda*, about four Miles, lyes the Iſle of *North-Ronaldſay*, about five Miles in circumference, affording no Harbour for Shipping, in reſpect of the ſtrong and mighty currents which inviron it: It is the Heritage of Mr. *Robert Henderſon*, who holds it feu of the Kings Majeſtie. It contains one Pariſh Church, the Soil in quality much reſembling that of *Sanda*. About half a Mile from *North-Ronaldſay*, there lyes a very dangerous Rock called *Selkskerry*, and this is the moſt Northern of all the Orcades Iſles.

About four Miles from *Sanda*, weſtward lyes the Isle *Eda*, ſeven Miles in length, and three in breadth, it belongs in heritage to *James Stewart* Earl of *Carrick*, who holds it feu of the King: it has in it a Pariſh Church, and betwixt it & *Sanda*, lyes a little Graſs Iſle, about three quarters of a Mile in circumference, called the *Calf* of *Eda*, uninhabited; and betwixt them there is a reaſonable good Road for Ships called *Calfs-ſound*, at which Road, the Earl of *Carrick* has newly erected a Salt work. And ſouth from *Eda* to *Shapinſay*, there lye two little Graſs Iſles called *Green holms* belonging to *Eda*.

Weſt from *Eda*, there lyes a litle Iſle called *Fara*, and to it a Graſs Iſle, called the Holm of *Fara*, and eaſt from it, a little Iſle named the *Read holm*, and betwixt *Eaa* and *Fara*, there is a good Road for Ships, coming from, or going to *Shetland*.

Weſt and by North from *Fara* lye the Iſles of *Veſtra*, and *Papa veſtra*: *Veſtra* contains ſeven Miles in length, and about three or four in breadth, it contains two Pariſh Churches, and now belongs to the Kings Majeſtie, it belonged to Sir *Michael Balfour* of *Monquhanny*, from whom Sir *John Arnot* did purchaſs it, and the King from him, it has a fair Caſtle, called *Noltland*, and is very fertile

in Corns, Bestial and Wild-fowl, but especially in Conies. There is only one Harbour in all the Isle for Ships, which is adjoyning to the Castle, but it is very shallow: to this Isle of *Vestra* belong three Grass Isles, lying from it South and by East, *viz.* two of them called *Rusk-holm* and *Fratholm*, and the third lyes North-east from *Vestra*, betwixt it and *Papa Vestra*, called the Holm of *Aberness*.

East and by north from *Vestra*, lyeth the Isle called *Papa Vestra*, fertile in Corns, and Bestial, without fire, about 7 Miles in circumference, with a little Grass Isle, belonging to it, called the Holm of *Papa*, lying to the East, which makes a good Road for Ships, which go further a Fishing, but very shallow: it contains a Parish Church and belongs to the King. South & West from *Vestra*, about nine or ten Miles, lye the Isles of *Rousay*, *Egilsay*, *Wyre*, *Gairsa*, and *Enhallow*.

Rousay contains five Miles in length, and four in breadth, a high Mountanous Isle, about fourteen Miles in Circumference, it contains one Parish Church, and belongs to the King, and is possessed by some Gentlemen in Tenendrie, with a Grass Isle belonging to it, called the Holm of *Skockness*: it is better for Pasturage, than Corns, abounding with Peets for fewell.

Egilsay is an Isle of three or four Miles in circumference, it is the heritage of *Robert Monteith*, who holds it of the King, and it lyes East from *Rousay*, about a Mile and a half, betwixt which and it, there is a good Road for Ships to the Westward, to which Road many *English* Ships repair in their going and coming from *Iceland*: It contains a Parish Church called St. *Magnus* Church, wherein, they say, this Saint lyes interred: North from this Isle, there lyes a little Grass Isle, belonging to it, named *Ridholme*.

Wyre is a little Isle, of a Mile and a half in circumference, in length and breadth not much more than half a Mile, it belongs to the King, and has no Parish Church in it, but is annexed to that of *Egilsbay*.

Gairsa lyes from *Wyre* South, being a little Isle of three Miles in circumference, having in it no Parish Church, but is annexed to that of *Randell* in *Pomona*. To *Gairsa* belong two little Grass Isles, called *Meikle-holm*, lying to the North, and *Little-holm*, lying to the South; it holds of the King, and belongs to *Robert Monteith* Heritor thereof: it contains a reasonable good Road for Ships, towards the East end of the Isle.

Enhallow is a little Isle lying betwixt *Pomona* to the South, and *Rousay* to the North, it lyes West and by North from *Gairsa*, and West and South from *Wyre*, four or five Miles distant from either of the two, being about a Mile in circumference: it held anciently of the Bishop, but now of *Adam Bannantine* of *Stainhouse*. The Laird of *Hacro* is Heritour. betwixt this Isle and *Pomona* there lyes a passage for Ships to pass from East to West, but near the Land something dangerous. The Roads and Ports of these Isles are marked in the Map by Anchors. This may suffice for understanding the Map of these Isles subjoined. These who would have a compleat Description and Historie of them, may find it in the Account of them published by *Mr. James Wallace* Parson of *Kirkwall*, and much inlarged by his Son, M. D. in the Edition of it at *London* 1700.

FINIS

The Map of SCHETLAND

NORTH MAVING
Hildersh
North Roe
Ollaberi
DELTING
North
South Delting
Fule or Thule
Walls and Sandsfo
Sandsting
Eastr
NESTING
Whittnes and Weis. Daill
TING
WEL
Scallowayd
GULBER WICK
Burra
Mouss
Lunna Voe
Whalsay
YELL
Mid Yell
North Yell
South Yell
UNST
Wick
Ballista
Hufsuick
Tyfsta
FETLER
Skerries
DUNROSNESS
Sandwick
Cunningsburgh
Skelmy Ile
the Fair Isle
N
W
E
S

To the Honourable
Mr ROBERT DOWGLASS
This Map is Dedicated by
SIR ROBERT SIBBALD
M D

Rot Miln Sculp.

THE

DESCRIPTION

Of the ISLES of

SHETLAND

IN Deſcribing theſe Iſles, I ſhall firſt give a general account of what is common to them, and thereafter a particular Deſcription of the moſt remarkable of them, and of what is obſerveable in them.

They have ſeveral Names beſide the common Deſignation of *Shetland*; by ſome they are named *Zetland*, and by others *Hetland*, and *Shethland*; ſome Seamen give them the Name of *Thylinſel*: the *Norvegians* call them *Tealteland*; and the people are called by them and the *Danes*, *Tealtines*: and their ſpeech, *Tealta mole*. Some call them *Tetlande*, and in the old Language of the Natives, they are named *Tealtaland*, as to the Latitude of them, the South end of them lyes under the 60 Degree, and the North end under the 61 Degree: and they lye under the 24 Degree of Longitude.

The length of them is from South to the North, *Viz.* from *Soundburgh* or *Fitfill*-head Southward, to the *Skae* of *Unſt* northward, Sixtie miles: the Breadth of them runs Eaſt and Weſt, Sixteen or Eighteen Miles, where they are broadeſt, *Viz.* from *Breſſay* Eaſtward to *Wals* Weſtward; and where it is moſt narrow, which is at *Quarfdale*, it is but one Mile broad.

About the *Æſtival Solſtice*, there is no Darkneſs, to ſpeak of, here; yea for a Moneth before it, and after it, (if the Horizon be clear) all the night time, one can read a Letter. Captain *Smith* in his *6th* Book of *Englands* Improvement, page 253; in his account of *Shetland*, ſayeth there is no night in the North of *Shetland*, part of the year, *Viz.* *June* and *July*; in an Iſland North of *Unſt*, not Inhabited then, but Stockt with wild Cows and Conies, he with his Birding piece killed ten couple of Conies in one night, ſhooting from a little before Sun Set, to Sun riſing, and it was as light as a cloudie Winter day:

Theſe Iſles of *Shetland* for the moſt part are High Rocks upon the

Shore, and very Mountainous up in the Land; the Mountains are moſt of them covered with Moſs and Heather: in the Valleys, eſpecially towards the Coaſt, they have Corns and Meadows: the Inland moſt of it conſiſts of Mountains, Moors or Heaths, and Mariſhes and Pools: the Mountains afford a Graſs good for Cattel, the Inhabitants call *Lubba*: to the Country is moſt of it more fit for Paſturage of Cattel, than for Corns, of which they have not ſo much as ſerveth to maintain them, but muſt be ſupplied from the *Orknay* Iſles, and the Continent of *Scotland*.

There is ſtore of Peets, and Turfs for Fewel in all theſe Iſles.

Theſe Iſles are well accommodated with excellent Roads and Bayes, and Long inlets of the Sea, which they call, in their Tongue, *Voes*, which are commodious and ſecure for all ſorts of Shipping, and upon that account are much frequented by our own Ships, and thoſe which belong to Foreigners, in their Voyages to both the *Indies*, for which reaſon the Natives and Indwellers have moſt gain from their Supplying the Ships with their Product, eſpecially their Fiſhes they take, and their Cows, and the groſſ Manufactures they make in this Country: the grounds of their Inlets are clean, naturally inclining to a Sandie Clay, and the water in them is very deep: there are no dry *Harbours* here, yet in ſeveral places, Ships can be ſafely brought a ground and Bett.

The Air in theſe Iſles is moſt wholſome, being well purged by great winds. The country is found to be colder in Summer, but Hotter in winter, than in other places of this Kingdom. The forecited Captain *Smith* tell's us, he did not remember any Froſt, or Snow in *Shetland*, which when it fall's out doth not laſt any conſiderable time: for what *Minucius* ſayes of *Britaine*, holdeth more here, *Ambientis maris vapore tepeſcit*; the vapour of the Sea tempers the Air.

The winds are ſo Boyſterous, that they will lift Boats from the plain ground, and break them in pieces. And Captain *Smith* obſerveth, that in the Winter, they blow ſo violent, that no ſhip dare look on the north coaſt in the winter quarter; ſo the people in theſe Iſles, have little commerce with other Nations in winter. He himſelf by the violence of the wind was blowen down flat to the ground, and was forced to creep on his Hands and Knees to the next wall, and going by the wall, got into a houſe: he ſayeth ſometimes theſe winds laſt half a day, and more.

There are only two towns or Burghs in all theſe Iſles, *viz. Scallawey*, formerly the chief Town, and the ſeat of the Gorvernour, and of the Preſbytry. But now not ſo much frequented, tho pleaſantly ſituated in a fertile place of the Country, with Corn, graſs and Meadows about it, yet ſcarce has a hundred Soules in it, there not being much trade there.

The other Town which is moſt frequented for Trade, is *Lerwick*, lying South and North upon the ſide of the Sound over againſt the Iſle of *Breſſey*, it is now become the principal Town in the Country; it is more then half a mile in length, and within theſe few years hath ariſed to conſiſt of between 200. and 300 families; becauſe of the many ſhips, which yearly, frequent *Breſſa Sound*

Sound, which draw's from the Continent, and the Isles, Merchants and Tradesmen to come and dwell in it, being neither so pleasantly Situated, nor in so fertile a Country, as that of *Scallawey*.

The houses in *Schetland* are all built of rough unhewn stone, the common thatching of them is a sort of Divet (they call there Flais) and straw and Summons above the same, which is renewed each year by the owners about Allhollow-tide. Some Houses are covered with Dales, and very few houses are covered with Slates.

The Country is divided into the mainland, and the Isles.

The Author of the large description of these Isles in *Bleau's Atlas*, says there are 46 Isles properly so called, fortie Holms, and 30 Skerries or bare rocks.

Of the Isles and Holms 26 are said to be inhabited, and the others are imployed for feeding Bestial.

Beside the mainland Isle, the most considerable are these Isles, *viz Unst*, *Via*, *Yell*, *Haskersu*, *Phetlar* or *Phedoroy*, *Papa-Stour*, *Foula*, *Havra*, *Burgh*, St. *Tronons* isle, *Mousa*, *Bressa*, *Nos*, *Linga*, *Melde*, *Whalsoy*. Skerries, *Ura*, *Burra Balta*, *Honega*, *Mekla*, St. *Ninians* isle, three *Skeen* islands, *Chuesa*, *Nostanda*, *Ru*, lesser and greater *Pupa*, *Vonneda*, and as many Holms are scattered amongst them.

These isles from the west look toward *Norraway*, the nearest continent of Europe, to them, from whence undoubtedly they had their first inhabitants.

Most of the arable ground in these isles is incloſed with dykes, and the manured ground produceth only Oats and Bear.

There are few trees, to be seen in them, tho there have been woods of old, for great roots of trees, and some Trunks of Trees are found in several places, two or three Cubits under ground, far from the Sea, there are still in some places some few Trees and Shrubs, but the Trees seldome exceed the hight of two or three Fathoms.

Their meadow ground is good and cut at Lammas, yeelds abundance of good Hay. There are no Rivers in this Country, it being so narrow and intersected with inlets of the Sea, there are only Lochs and Pools, and Bourns, and Rivolets, running from them.

The Rousts and high tidegates of the Sea about the Promontories and the Isles, make the weather often rough. and with the labour and toil and gross food of the inhabitants, hardneth their bodys, so that fourscore of years is reckoned no great age amongst the Commons, and many of them live till they be fivescore, sixscore, and some sevenscore years of age. In the parish of *Tingwall* in *Heylester*, the possessor lived to be an hundred and fourty Christmasses at his own Boord.

The women generaly are well favoured, and vertuous and frugal: many of the common men are much given to tipling, yet some live to a great age without tasting wine or Ale or beer: contenting themselves with water, milk, and their Drink made of it, they call *Blende*.

Young and old men and women are much given here to the Snuffing and Smoaking of Tobacco.

The preſent inhabitants conſiſt of the Clergie and the laity: the laicks of the Gentry and the Commons.

The Gentry in manners, cuſtomes and Faſhions agree much with the Gentrie of the Mainland of *Scotland*, from whence they came: they are moſt of them well-bred, and inclined to Hoſpitality.

The Commons are either the old Natives for immemorial Poſſeſion, or ſuch as not long ſince came hither from *Scotland*.

The Natives are known from the Incommers by their want of ſurnames, having only Patronymic Names. Many of them, are deſcended from the *Norvegians*, and ſpeak a *Norſe* Tongue, corrupted, (they call *Norn*) amongſt themſelves, which is now much worn out. The Inclination of many of theſe of *Norvegian* Extract is baſe and Servile, Subtile and falſe, and Paraſitick; they are wiſe to deceive, and if they be not reſtrained by ſevere Lawes, they are much given to Theft. They are, generally very Sharp, and conſequently docile, and becauſe of their Commerce with the *Hollanders*, they promptly ſpeak Low Dutch.

They are leſs given to Venerie and Quarrells, and more Sober than ſome of the other Inhabitants of a *Britiſh* Extract, and they are richer. Divers of them are *Udalers*, that is Proprietaries of the Land (manured by them) by immemorial Poſſeſſion, ſeverals of theſe are men of Subſtance, and can promptly ſpeak the *Scots* Tongue. Here Hoſpitality is obſerved not only by the Gentry, but alſo by the Common Farmers of Land.

The Incommers (whoſe reſidence in theſe Iſles is not above a few Centuries of years) are very politick, by reaſon of their frequent Converſe with Strangers, which reſort hither from all parts of Chriſtendom, they are Sagacious and Subtile, and readie to take advantage of theſe they have buſineſs with, and are proud and ſtubborn, if ſoftly treated: but if they be roughly handled, they are flexible: they are many of them great Drinkers and given to Venerie, and are Quarelſome, and theſe ſpeak the *Scots* Language as well as the *Norſe*.

The Clergie are Learned, and painfull and diligent: moſt of them have three Churches, at conſiderable Diſtances.

The Gentry are Civil and much given to Hoſpitality, eſpecially towards Strangers, they are well furniſhed with all neceſſaries for the Conveniencie and pleaſure of Life; and are well bred: Some of them apply to Navigation, and in *Hollands* Veſſels travell to both the *Indies*, to *Guinea* and to *Greenland*, and often to *France*, *Italy* and *Spain*, and breed their Sons in ſuch parts of the Mathematicks, as are ſubſervient to Navigation.

And thus my worthie friend *John Bruce* of *Simbiſter* was bred himſelf, and educateth his Son ſo, after he had accompliſhed himſelf with travelling through the Countries abovementioned, he did apply himſelf to ſurvey all the Coaſt of theſe Iſles of *Shetland* and has made a Large Map of all the *Voes*, *i. e.* Bays and Sounds and the entries to them, and has marked the meaths in them, and ſhowen where dangers are and how they are to be evited, and is reſolved ſo ſoon as he goes home, to take a more exact Survey of all again, and to miſs no Bank, Rock nor Shallow: which

when

when he has done, and given the last stroke and finishing to his Map, will make the Navigation in these Isles secure, which will much contribute to the Advancing of Trade and promoting of the Fisherie in these Isles and their Neighbourhood: from which our Neighbours in times of Peace, had vast advantage, by the great Fleets they sent thither yearly: and likewise this Map will be most usefull to our Fleets, and to these of our Allies, who pass that way to the *Indies* and other Countries, when the Passages towards the South are not so clear and safe.

The greatest part of the food of the Commons in the Summer time, is milk and Fish.

They milk thrice a day, churn once a day, and make very good Butter and Cheese: some of them drink neither Ale nor any strong Liquors, but their Drink they make of Milk and Water, they call Bland: or water alone, and these often live to six or seven-score of years.

Their Fish afford not only food, but matter of Trade to them, by cureing them, and the Oyle they make of the Livers of them: these bring to them Money, and all necessaries in time of Peace: the Fishes they take for their own use, some of them they eat fresh, some they hang in Skees till they be foure, and these they call Blowen Fishes.

Such as they design for Merchant Ware, some they Salt, and some they hang Fresh in Skees, till they be perfectly dry, and they call those Stock Fishes, whereof they have great plenty.

In the Winter time they feed strongly upon Flesshes, for the Country affords many Cows, Sheep and Swine, and plenty of Fowles, especially Sea Fowls and fresh water Fowls. The Country affords but little Corn, and much of that often shaken by the Violent Winds, or spoiled with the Sea water blowen in upon it, so that they must be supplied from *Orkney*, and the Continent of *Scotland*.

There are but few Milns here, save hand Milnes called Quairns, there is no Shelling of Victuall: their Hooks, or Sirkles have no teeth, their Sithes are not a span long, their Plough socks and Culters slender and dittle, and their labouring is by four Oxen, all going in broad band, with a man going before them Backward, and the Plowman holding his plough by his side; there are no Walke Milns here, that is done either by their hands and feet, or by the Sea, called *Tavacuthees*. Thus in a place betwixt a Rock and the land, through which the Sea Ebbeth and floweth, they fasten a Web of Cloth, the one end upon the Rock, and the other upon the Land, and the Sea by its motion to and fro Walkes the Cloth very thick; which cloth they call Yelt or Wadmeal.

The People here are generally Loyal, and without Dissatisfaction, as to matters of Goverment, in Church or State: they are stout and Ventorious, going to Sea in small Boats with two Rowers.

There are no Castles nor Forts here save one Castle at *Scalloway*, built by *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney anno* 1600, now become ruinous: this is the place of Meetings of all Courts, Ecclesiastical and Civil: there was a Fort at *Lerwick*, built by King *Charles* the seconds Order, *October* 1665, and burnt, with the Town of *Lerwick*, by the *Hollanders August* 13th 1673.

Theſe two *T*owns ſubſiſt by Trade, eſpecially *Lerwick* which is now increaſed to a great Bulk by Strangers comming there in time of Peace, and by the Induſtrie of the People. For the better preventing of hazard from an enemy, they uſe to have upon the top of their higheſt Hills, their Ward or Wardhill, which is a heap of Turfs and Peets, placed on the top of the Hill, which being fired gives Advertiſement in a ſhort time, to the Country about: the Ward Hills are ſo ordered throughout all the Country, that the Wardhill is always in ſight of its adjacent Ward, which reſorteth to the place where the fire is ſeen, and to this day, there is a ſtanding Law, that there be not wanting Fire and Fewell, at any time, at theſe places, which they light, upon the approach of Ships, they apprehend may be Enemies.

All their *Me*aſures are by Weight for dry Wares. *Viz.* by Lifh-pounds, and *M*arks; the firſt being 24 pound weight, the other, one pound. Their *M*ony is for the moſt part *Hollands* and Dutch *M*ony.

The Drink they uſe ordinarly in many places, is *Blend*, which is made of *M*ilk after the Butter is taken out of it.

The Women in *Schetland* are generally Fertile. A Gentleman that ſtayed ſome time there, told me he ſpake with a married couple, none of them above 50 years of Age; both the *M*an and the Woman were of a thin and lean habit of Body, who told him themſelves (and their Neighbours confirmed it) that they had in *M*arriage procreat betwixt them two, 32 Children, moſt of them Baptiſed, and many of them were Living, and were Twins.

What *Solinus* Polyhiſtor Cap. 22. obſerved of our Iſlanders, their Bartering of goods, *Dant res & accipiunt, mutationibus neceſſaria potius quam pretiis parant*, is to this day much in uſe with the Inhabitants of *Shetland* and *Orkney*, and is a proof of their Antiquity.

There are in moſt of the Pariſhes *Picts Houſes*, as they call them, they are ſome of them of a Pyramidal Form, or like a round Dovecote, broad below & drawing narrower to the top, the moſt remarkable of thoſe is one in the Iſland of *Muſa*: there are in ſome of them diverſe Cells, Vaulted above, and they have a Winding ſtair within them, that goeth up to the Top; many of them are built cloſs by the Sea, ſome of them upon the Tops of Hills: ſome think they were Beacons, and had in the Night Fire upon the tops of them: Some think they were Watch Towrs, ſome make them places of refuge, when they feared the approach of an Enemie: they call them Broughs.

In the Iſle of *Papa*, belonging to *Waes*, there is an high Rock, called *Frowa Stack*, that is, the *M*aiden Rock, divided from the Land by a narrow Firth, upon the Top of which the Tradition is, that a certain *Norwey* Gentlewoman, (in the time the *Norvegians* were *M*aſters of theſe Iſles) having vowed perpetual Virginity, to preſerve her ſelf from the tempting Solicitations of Suiters, built a ſtrong Tower, to which their was no aſcent, but by the help of Ropes, how it came to paſs is unknown, ſhe became with Child, and thereupon the Tower was demoliſhed, the Rubbiſh and Veſtiges of it are yet to be ſeen.

Nec incluſam Danaen *turris ahenea*
Robuſtaque fores, munierant ſatis. There

There are many Obeliſks, that is, high Stones ſtanding upon their end, in this Country, which are ſaid to be Monuments of ſome Remarkable Accident: there is one of the chief of them in the mid-way betwixt the Town of *Scalloway*, and the Kirk of *Tingwall*.

In the Iſle of *Fula*, upon the top of the Hill called *Loriſield*, there is a Hole which hath been tried with two Barrel of Lines, and yet it is ſaid they could find no Botom to it. In the ſame Iſle, in a Vault call'd *Garp* Tomb, their was found not many years ago, the Thigh Bone of a Man of that length, that it reached from any tall mans Foot to his Groine.

About the whole Coaſt here, there is a ſtrong Current of Tide-gate upon the Eaſt and Weſt ſides of the Country: a South South-eaſt Moon maketh high water: only at *Sounderough head*, a South or a South and by Eaſt Moon, maketh high water.

The Ebbings and flowings here are Various and uncertain, becauſe of the many Iſles and Promontories round about the Country: It is Reported that the Sea at the Neſs, floweth nine Hours, and Ebbeth three, but by weſt the Parish of *Northmaven*, the Seamen report that it floweth Northward, and Ebbeth Southward, and ſome report that at the North of *Schetland* both Ebb and flood go one way.

There are many Lakes in the Mainland and Iſles, ſtored with Eels and Common ſpeckled Trouts, ſome of which are very big, of the colour and taſte of Salmon.

There are no Venemous beaſts found in *Shetland*; no Aſks, no Adders, no Frogs, no Snails, no Rats, if theſe be brought there by Ships, they will not live over a year or two.

The Horſes are moſt of them of a very ſmall Size, not exceeding nine hand breadth high; an Horſe of twelve hand-breadth hight (which is but even rare here) is eſteemed a very tall Horſe, the leaſt of the Horſes here are ſharp and full of Metle above belief, they will carrie a Man and a Woman twenty miles a day, and will live till they be 30 or 40 years old, though they never are put in a Stable Summer or Winter, and are not allowed Shoes or Provender, but ſhift for themſelves in the open Fields.

Some of the Gentrie here have pretty big Horſes for their own Saddle, which they bring from *Cathneſs* or *Orkney*: they tell a Storie of an Horſe at *Lunnay*, that lived till he was an hundred years old.

The little Horſes called Shalties go ſoftlie a natural pace, and are ſure footed in Ragged and Steep places, they are litle bigger than Aſſes, and are very durable.

Both Oxen and Cows here are of a conſiderable Size, they are indeed leſſer, than theſe of *England*, but greater than theſe of *Orkney*, or in ſome of the Northmoſt places of *Scotland*.

The Sheep are allowed no Cotes, and for the moſt part are wild and of Sundry Colours, they are fleeced and not Shorn: their Wool is rough, it is pulled off about Midſummer, many of the Sheep are unhorned, they are generally black and ſpeckled, they bring forth here ordinarly two or three at a time, the Wild ones are taken with Dogs, taught for the purpoſe, they call them had *Dogs*.

The Swine or Hogs, are of a midle Size, and for the moſt part feed upon the Mountains.

There are many Conies in theſe Iſles, of a light brown Colour, which feed in Holmes, and upon Graſſie Links, ſome maliciouſly brought Weaſels here, which deſtroy many of them.

There are no Hares in theſe Iſles.

There are no Foxes.

There are abundance of Selches and Otters.

Beſides plentie of Tame Fowle, there are ſtore of other Fowle; as Doves, Whapes, Plivers, Teal, and Ducks, and Geeſe of divers ſorts: there is a great reſort of Sea Fowls of all ſorts to theſe Iſles, they neſt in the Rocks upon the Shore, ſome take them with Grins ſlipped over their heads, while they are ſleeping.

There are no Partridges nor Moor Fowl here.

Hawks have their Neſts in Sundry places; as in *Foula*, *Northmaven-Neſs*, *Fair Iſle*; and the Kings Falconer when he comes here to Herry their Neſts, he hath a Hen payed him out of each houſe here as it is in *Orkney*.

There are many Ravenous Fowls here, as Eagls, Ravens, and Crows. In old time they did ſo increaſe and multiply here, that the *Fowde* (whoſe Office was ſuch as that of the Sheriff now) made an Act, that whoſoever at the head Court, brought in an Eagls-head, ſhould have a Merk from each having Sheep in that Paſture: whoever brought in a Ravens-head, ſhould have an half Merk, and who brought in a Crows head, ſhould have fortie penies *Scots*.

In old time, the Sea about this Coaſt was well ſtored, with all common ſort of *Fiſhes*, as Mackrells, Herrings, Ling, Cods, Haddocks, Whyteens, Sheaths, eſpecially with Podlines (young Sheaths, called by the Inhabitants Pellacks, which in fair Weather come ſo near the Shore, that Men, yea Children, from the Rocks with fiſhing Rods, caught them in abundance:) but all kind of *Fiſhing* is greatly decayed here, albeit greater pains is taken by the *Fiſhers* now than ever before, who with ſmall *Norwey* Yoals (two or three men in each of them) adventure far in the Sea, and oft times endure hard weather: in the Summer time, an excellent kind of *Fiſh* is caught upon the Eaſt ſide of this Country, the Inhabitants call it *Briſmaks*, the *Hollanders* call it Lump, and the *Scots* call it Tuſk.

Whales are caſt in upon the Shore ſometimes, which the Admiral Deputies ſeiz upon, as they do on the Ships and Timber which is driven in.

But the greateſt Advantages *Shetland* hath, is from the fiſhing of Herring and Cod, which abounds ſo there, that great Fleets of the Hollanders come there, and by the order of the States General begin to take Herring, upon St. *Johns* day, hard by *Shetland*, with their Buſhes: which they continue to do from thence alongſt the *Scots* and *Engliſh* Coaſt, till they come over againſt *Yermouth*, and at the ſame time imploy ſome Hundreds of Doggers for taking of Cod. And all the Summer the Inhabitants of *Shetland* about their Iſles, beſide the Herrings they take, are conſtantly Imployed in taking Cod and Ling, which they ſell to *Hamburghers*, *Bremers*, *Lubecquers*, and to *Scots* and *Engliſh*, who come there with their Ships,

and

ſſles) Hooks, and Lines, for the taking of Cod and Ling, Nets for the taking of Herring, Brandie, and ſtrong Waters of all ſorts; Mead, Strong Beer, Biſket, Wheat-meal, and Rye-meal, Barly, Salt, Tobacco, Fruits of all Sorts, *Monmouth* caps, and the Courſer ſort of Cloth and Linen, and ſuch like merchandiſe: And the Inhabitants of theſe Iſles vend to the Foreigners their Cod, Ling, and Tuſk, and Herring, and Sheaths; and the Oyle they make of the Fiſhes they take, and Butter, and their Horſes, Cows and Sheep, and the Skins of Selches and Otters, and the Manufactures they make, *viz.* Stockings and the courſe Cloth called *Wadmell*: and thus in time of Peace they do flouriſh, but are at great loſs in time of War, wanting both mony and theſe Commodities the foraigners uſe to afford to them, and their moſt ſubſiſtence then is from the ſmall trade they drive with their Barks to *Norwey*, where they buy Timber for their Houſes, ready framed, and Dale Boards, and Tar, and Ships, Barks, and Boats of all ſorts, and all other Neceſſaries for their Country, for which laſt alſo they trade with their Barks loaden with Fiſh and Oyl to *Scotland*, and bring home ſuch Commodities from thence as they want: they take upon their Coaſt ſeverall ſorts of Shell Fiſhes, ſuch as Oyſters, Muſsles, Lobſters and ſuch like they make uſe of in their Country.

Sometimes they catch with their Nets and Hooks *Tritons*, they call them *Shoupiltins* and Mermaids, but theſe are rare & but ſeldome ſeen.

They want not Plants which they make uſe of for cures of diſeaſes, which are not riſe amongſt them, the *Heather* is a great *Panacea*, and they uſe that and their other Plants for cureing of Wounds and Aches. The *Muſcus criſtæ aut Lichenis modo Saxis adnaſcens flavus*, which they call a Skal, from the reſemblance it hath to that, of this ſcraped off from the Stone it groweth on, they make the Lit they call the Corkat Litt.

It is reported there are ſome Copper Mines in theſe Iſles, but it is not yet known where they are. A kind of Rock Chriſtal is found in *Qualſey*, ſome pieces are poliſht as it were by art, ſome four ſquare, ſome eight ſquare: and ſome pumice Stones are caſt in by the Sea in ſeverall places of the Coaſt.

It is very clear, from what *Pliny* ſays of *Thule*, that it was the remoteſt of the *Britiſh* Iſles; and *Tacitus* ſays, that when the *Orcades* were diſcovered, *Conſpecta Thule*, and *Ptolomee* ſays of its being oppoſite to *Bergen* in *Norwey*; that this muſt have been the *Thule* meant by them, *Iſland* and the *Feroe Iſle* not being diſcovered till a long time afterwards.

The Government was by a *Foude*, which office anſwered to our Sheriff and now they are under a Deputie, named by the Government. The Picts were the old Inhabitants; and after them the *Norvegians* ſeized them, who brought in St. *Olla's* Laws and Cuſtoms, ſome of which yet are retained. The Sheriff now appoints Bailies in the ſeveral Bailleries. The Religion is the reformed: under Epiſcopacie they made a part of the Dioceſs of the Biſhop of *Orkney*, and now make part of the Preſbyterie of *Orknay*. I ſhall give the Deſcriptions of the particular Iſles, ſuch as they were ſent to me by Biſhop *Mackenzies* orders, done by Mr. *Theodore Umphry*, Mr. *Heugh*

Leigh and Mr. *James Key*, the moſt Intelligent Miniſters there.

Shetland, is now divided by ſo many *Bailerie*s or Miniſteries, and is bounded with the *Fair Iſle* on the South, with *Breſſay* &c. on the Eaſt, *Fula* on the VVeſt, and the *Scall* of *Unſt* on the North, being (as ſaid is) ſixtie Miles in length, from *Soumburgh head* to the *Scall* of *Unſt*, and at the largeſt, the breadth not above 16 Miles.

The firſt Miniſtery or Bailewick in order, to the South, is *Dunroſeneſs* bounded from *Soumburg-head* to the South, to *Fladabuſter* to the North, about Miles in length, the Breadth at moſt Six miles: from *Mavick* to *Soumburgh*, in ſome places not two Miles: it hath but one Miniſter, tho two preaching Kirks, and but one *Sucken* or Bailewick; the Iſlands belonging to it are *Fair iſle*, here the Duke *de Medina Sidonia*, with a part of the great *Spaniſh Armado*, *Anno* 1588, ſuffered Shipwrack, tho' himſelf and moſt of the men were ſaved alive, this Iſland is diſtant from the *Main-land* of *Zetland*, Miles: the other Iſles belonging to this Miniſterie, are *Muſa* on the Eaſt, where is the rareſt Picts-Houſe to be ſeen, that is in all this Countrey, alſo the Iſles called the *Kings iſle*, *Corſe Holme*, *Colſa &c.*

The Harbours here are *Gratneſs Voe*, *Aiths Voe* &c.

The Second *Bailewick*, in order, is the *Bailiewick* and Miniſtry of *Burra*, wherein is a Church for Preaching, having adjacent to it the *Iſland* of *Havery*, *Papa* &c. this Miniſtery takes alſo in upon the Main land, the places of *Weſt* and *Eaſt-Wharff*, with the Iſle of *Breſſay*, on the Eaſt, where are two Kirks for preaching, together with the Iſle of *Neſs*, where is a Chapel: one Miniſter ſerveth all theſe, and of old it was but one *Bailiewick*, but now it is divided into three *Bailerie*s.

The third in order is the *Sucken* (that is the *Bailierie*) and Miniſterie of *Tingwall*, this hath belonging to it four Pariſhes, and two Towns. *Viz.* the firſt on the Eaſt, *Gulberrie*, wherein are four old Chapels, with four Picts Houſes. Here alſo is the Town of *Lerwick*: 2*dly* on the Weſt, *Whitneſs*, where is a Church for preaching, beſide which ſtandeth St. *Olla*'s Chair, and the Church there cali'd St. *Olla*'s *Church*.

Thirdly *Wiſdale*, where is, for preaching, *Our Ladies Church*, concerning the building of which at firſt, ſtrange things are reported and believed by the Vulgar, who Idolize it ſuperſtitiouſly.

Fourthly *Tingwall*, where for Preaching is St. *Magnu*'s Church, and about twelve Chapels; this Miniſterie is bounded with *Wharf* and *Burray* to the South, with *Neſting* on the North, with *Breſſay ſound* on the Eaſt, and *Aithſting* and *Sandſting* on the VVeſt.

The whole Circumference will be more than 30 Miles, yet but one Miniſterie, and of old was under one *Bailiewick*, but now under three. *Viz.* *Tingwall*, and the Town of *Scalloway*, one; *Gulberrie*, and the Town of *Lerwick* another; *Whitneſs* and *Wiſdale* a third: the Iſles belonging to it are *Trondray*, *Greenholm*, *Oxno*, *Langa*, *Linga*, *Hildeſa*, *Havery*, *Hoy*, *Flotta*, *Gruna*, the two *Cherries* &c.

The moſt Commodious Harbours in this Miniſterie, are to the Eaſt, *Breſſay* ſound, of 20 and 21 foot Water at full Sea. Here a South South Eaſt Moon makes a full Sea. This Harbour is ſo ſafe that there have been more than 2000 Ships lying here at a time. No Rocks in the South Entry, ſave one by weſt, near *Lerwick* another in the North beneath the Fort.

To

To the South of this Pariſh are no Commodious Havens. To the South are *Scalloway Voe*, which if you come to, in the South Entry no danger, keeping the midle Chanel, and the Church and Steeple of *Tingwall* in your Eye: as alſo to the Weſt no danger, if you be once within *Oxno*, keeping ſight of the Caſtle.

To the Weſt of this Miniſterie, there are many good Harbours, ſuch as *Wiſdale Voe*, *Binga Neſs Voe*, *Whitneſs*, which run all up North, but no ſafe entry to any of them, without a Pilot, by reaſon of many Holms, *Iſles*, Rocks *&c.* in the Mouth.

To the North of this Miniſterie are theſe Harbours and Voes North, *Chalderneſs Voe* runs up North-Eaſt and by North: next to it is *Laxford Voe*, running up two Miles South South Weſt, a third is *Dails Va*, which runs up South South Weſt two Miles: a fourth is *Grimiſta Bight* in the North mouth of *Breſſay ſound*: but to none of all theſe Harbours is there any coming in from the Sea, without a Pilot, by reaſon of Rocks, Sholes, *&c.* that run from *Neſting*, to the North mouth of *Breſſay Sound*.

The fourth Bailierie and Miniſterie, in order, is that of *Neſting*, bounded on the South with *Tingwall*, on the Weſt with *Delting*, on the North with the Iſle of *Yell*, on the Eaſt with the Ocean. There are three ſeverall Congregations belonging to this Miniſterie, two on the Main-Land, *viz.* *Neſting* and *Lunaſting*, a third in the Iſle of *Qualſey*, divided from the other two, by a Ferry of three miles, of a great Current, dangerous to paſs with a South Eaſt wind: here the *Skerries* lye, from *Quelſey* ſix miles, a place commodious for fiſhing, and becauſe of this, many of its adjacent Neighbours reſort to it.

The *Skerries* have three Roads for Veſſels of ſmall Burden where they may Ride ſafely in the Summer time.

One runs in Northweſt: a ſecond South-Eaſt: a third North: which tho it be deep within, yet is ſo ſhallow in the Entry, that no Veſſell can come in, ſave ſmall Boats; here lye alſo ſeverall ſmall Iſles and Rocks, alongſt the whole coaſt from the Skerries to the influente of *Breſſay Sound*, which is about 16 or 18 Miles long.

Quelſey is three Miles long, and about nigh two Miles broad, there is no Harbour there, ſave a Bay, called the *Hame*, where Dutch *Merchants* reſort on the South-weſt ſide of the Iſle, which runs in Eaſt, and is ſafe only in the Summer.

Neſting is about four *Miles* in Length, and two miles broad, and runneth out in ſeverall Head Lands, the Harbours are *Catfoord Voe*, on the South ſide, which runs in Weſt North-weſt, neareſt *Dury Voe* on the Weſt ſide, which runs in South; another at *Brough* called *Ham*, for ſmall Veſſells, but no coming in to it without a Pilot.

Lunaſting is about 4 *Miles* long, and two miles broad, here no ſafe Harbours, it runs alſo in ſeverall Headlands: hence it has the Name *Lunaſting*, as all the Pariſhes of *Zetland*, which run out in the Sea in Arms of Land, are called *Tangs*.

The fifth Baillerie and Miniſterie in Order, is that of *Sandſting*, bounded with *Tingwall* on the Eaſt, with *Walls* on the Weſt, with the Ocean on the South, and with *Delting* on the North: here are two Churches for preaching and Congregations, one at *Sand*, another at *Aith*: hence that part of the pariſh is called *Aithſting*, both

are under one Baillerie, taking in with it the Isles of *Vemendy* and *Papalitle*.

The Harbours here to the South are *Sand Sound Voe*, running up North and Northwest about four Miles, but there is no safe Entry without a Pilot: the next is *Sandshelde-Voe* running up North about two Miles, a 3d *Skelde Voe* running up North a Mile, but has rocks in the Entry: here are several Picts Houses or Broughs, as also Trouts at *Northborrow Firth*, greater than in any part of this Countrey.

The sixth in order is the Baillerie and Ministerie of *Walls*, comprehending *Walls*, *Sandis* with the Isles of *Valey*, *Papastoure*, and *Fair Isle*, bounded with *Sandsting* on the East, on the South & West with the Ocean, on the North, with *North Maven*. *Fulay*, well repleniſhed with Corns, Fish, Feathers, & is Miles distant from the Mainland. In *Valey*, as in some other places through the Countrey, no Mice, Rats, nor Cats will live, tho' brought to it.

The Seventh Baillerie and Ministerie in order is *Delting*.

The Eighth Baillerie and Ministerie is *Northmaven*.

The Ninth is *Tell*, a great Isle, and next to the Mainland by North, having in it three Churches for Sermons, each distant eight Miles from another, to it belongeth the Islands of *Samfrey*, half the Island of *Bigga*, together with the Isle *Hascosea*, all inhabited, yea the Isle of *Fetlar*, was at the Reformation and long after it, a part of this Ministerie, which had but then one Minister, though now it hath two, there are in *Tell* about twentie Chapells, it has one Baillerie, the Chief Harbours in it are, by South, *Burravo*, *Hamnavo*, *Bastavo*, and *Re Firth*: by North are *Culyevo* &c.

The tenth Baillerie and *Ministerie* in order is *Fetlar*, running East by South, and West by North, there is no Harbour here, and but on Church for Sermon tho' there are about 10 or 11 Chappels.

The Eleventh and last Baillerie and Ministerie in order is the Isle of *Unst*.

Before I proceed to give a Description of these Bailleries and Parishes particularly, I shall first give the Names of the remarkable Voes, that is, Bays and Firths in them, from an old Manuscript written a Hundred yeirs ago, and sent to Sir *James Balfour* Lord Lyon, amongst whose Collections I found it.

These Names are in the *Norse* or *Norvegian* Language, and still are retained by the Inhabitants, as well the Modern as the Ancient, which are of a *Norvegian* Extract, and still speak their Language, they are many of them named from the Villages or Houses adjacent to them, or from the Names of the old Possessors of the adjoyning Lands, called *Udallers*, and therefore in the first place these Norse Words are to be explained, we meet with in the account of these Isles a few of which are these following.

A, in the Teutontick Tongue signifieth water, and because the Isles are pieces of Land surrounded with water, several of their Names Terminate in *a*, as *Rapa*, *Bunta*, &c.

Air a Bank of Sand.

Airvi haise the place of meeting appointed by the Feud Generali.

Backie a small running water which gave rise to the Surname of the people of that Name.

Beiſtane; a Termination of a Surname ſignifieing the Superlative Degree of Compariſon.

Bland or *Blend*; a Drink made of the Milk that remaineth of Churned Butter, clarified and Barelled for Winter.

Caſſie; a Veſſel made of Straw, for containing, weighing and tranſporting of Corns: the Weight of it on the Malt Poundler, ſhould be half a Setten, and on the Bear Pundler eight Marks.

Cuſtellpennie, is the due the Bailive claimeth out of the goods of the deceaſed.

Ey; in the old Language ſignifieth water, and therefore is adjected to the Name of ſome of the Iſlands here, as *Breſſey*.

Foud; an Office anſwering to our Sheriff: he was inveſted with all power in Civil and Criminal Matters, and he had under him ten Deputed *Fouds*, anſwering to our *B*ailives, who exerced the Juriſdiction.

Foudrie; the Government of the Diſtricts under the Foud and his Deputies.

Gavelkind; The Diviſion of the Heritage and Moveables, equally (*ſine diſcrimine ſexus vel ætatis*) amongſt the Children of the deceaſed, only by the cuſtome of *Shetland*, the youngeſt got the dweling Houſe, beſide his ſhare, upon the equal diviſion of all the goods Heretable and Moveable.

Holm; a litle Iſle; the moſt part of them are deſart, and imployed only for *P*aſturage.

Laſt; that of Malt, is 24 Meils; and that of *B*ear 38 Meils.

Leiſpound; a weight of their victuall, which containeth 24 of their Marks, it is called alſo a *Setten*, this anſwereth to 28 of our pounds at ſixteen ounces the pound.

Mark; it anſwereth to a pound, but really contains 18 Ounces.

Meill, is their *B*oll, which contains Six *Settens* or *Leiſpounds*: 18 Meils of Malt, make a Chalder: and 36 Meils of *B*ear, upon the *B*ear pundler, and 24 upon the Malt Pundler, makes a Chalder of *B*ear, which will meaſure out 21 *B*olls *Linlithgow* meaſure: the Furlet will be a *Setten* and a half, but it altereth leſs or more, according to the goodneſs of the Grain. The Boll of Meal will be but four *Settens* and a half, *Orkney* weight.

Norn; the Language ſpoken by the Inhabitants of *Orkney* and *Zetland*.

Oyſe; an inlet of the Sea.

Pundler, is a Beam diſtinguiſhed with the Marks of their weight, which hath a ſtone upon the one end, (which ſtone on the Malt Pundler ſhould be a *Setten* weight, and on the Bear Pundler ſixteen *Mark*) and a Hook on the other end, for hanging up the *Caſſie* in which their Victuall is. In moſt it does reſemble a Stalliard, on which mony is weighed.

Rouſt, is a tempeſtuous Tyde.

Setten; the ſame with a *Leiſpound*, ſix *Settens* make a Meil.

Seater, a Sirname from *Seater*, whom they held was *Saturn*.

Skeos, are little houſes built of dry ſtones without any Mortar, that the Wind may have free paſſage through them, in which they dry their Fiſhes and Fleſhes, and what is dryed ſo is called *B*lowen meat: they call it *vivde*, it is not ſalted.

Shundhill; the Decreet past by the *Foude*.

Skerries, Ragged Rocks.

Sucken, a Bailiffrie, and the district under the Bailiffs jurisdiction.

Tang, a piece of Land running out into the Sea.

Voe; a Creek or Bay.

Udal-Lands, a Right of Possession the Natives have successively without either Charter or Seasine.

Wart, or *Ward-hill*; High hills upon which they plant Beacons *Viz.* a heap of Turfs and Piets which fired gives Advertisement to the Country People to meet there, this being seen by these of the adjacent Ward.

These particulars were to be premised for the better understanding of the customes of the Inhabitants of these Isles.

In the next place, I shall give the Names of the Bayes and Roads in the severall Parishes, the Description of them is to be seen in the Account of the Bailliffries.

In the Parish of *DUNROSENESS*, there are these.

At *Suimburgh head*, *Vigaanna Voe*, *Greatness-Voe*; and on the east side of the Parish, *Aiths-voe*; and on the West side, one at St *Ninians* Isle.

In *BURRA* Parish.

One called the *Myne*, on the West side of the Countrey, one called the *Meill* on the North of the Isle. on the East side is *Cliftsound*.

In *TINGWALL* Parish.

Scalloway-voe, *Quhytness-voe*, *Laxford-voe*, and *Beinwyness-voe*, *Weisdel voe*, *Wadbisten voe*, *Delis-voe*.

In *BRESSET* Parish.

Bressey Sound, *Gunnuls-voe*.

In *NEISTING* and *SANDSTING* Parish.

Tuetf-voe, *Sandsili-voe*, *Skeeldi-voe*, *Grutting-voe*, *Bringa-Seater-voe*, *Aithf-voe*, and in the Isle of *Vemindrie*, one upon the West-side, and another on the Northside.

In *WAES* Parish

Valley-Sound, *Hellen-Setter-voe*.

West from *Walsound* 16 Miles lyes the Isle of *Fula*, where Ships may ride, with a Land Wind, on either side.

In the Isle of *Papastour*, *Hamna-voe*, *Olla's-voe*, and *Calzeo-voe*, and *Housa-voe*.

In the Parish of *DELTING*.

Olna-Firth, *Roesound*, *Maivisgrind-Voe*, *Burra Firth*, *Daillis-Voe*, *Caldaback-voe*.

In *NORTHMAVING* Parish

Tuetsetmouth-voe, *MangaSettar-voe*, *Gunnaset-voe*, *Hammerf-voe*, *Hildswich-voe*, *Stanehouse-voe*, *Hamna-voe*, *Ramf-voe*, *Yell-sound*, *Burra-voe*, *Cola Firth voe*, *Gluf-voe*.

In the Parish of *YELL*

Hamna-voe, *South-Lade voe*, *Gravelland-voe*, *Burra-voe*, *Rafirth*, *Silla firth*, *Culzea-voe*, *Glupe voe*.

In *NESTING* Parish

One in the Isle of *Skerrie*, and in the Isle of *Quhalsay* one Road.

In *UNST* Parish

Ure sound, *Balta Sound*.

On

On the *MAINLAND*

Suinningſ-voe, *Gilleſbrig-voe* and *Dure-voe*, *Lax-voe*, *Cattſurd-voe* and *Vaſſa-voe*.

Southweſt from *Suinburgh*, about 24 Miles from the Land, lyes the *Fair-Isle*; with a Creek for *Barks*, but no Commodious Harbour. I come now to the particular Deſcription of the *Bailleries* and Pariſhes.

The Deſcription of *DUNROSENES*

Chapter firſt.

Dunroſeneſs, the Southmoſt part of *Zetland*, extendeth it ſelf, from South-Weſt to North-Eaſt, *Viz.* from *Fitfell-head* to *Eaſter-Quarf*, 12 large Miles: from South-Eaſt to North Weſt *Viz* from *Soumburg-head* to *Weſter Quarf* 10 large Miles: but further North, it drawes much Narrower, being about the Midle but ſix Miles in Breadth, and in the Northmoſt part, but three or four Miles at moſt.

The North-weſt bounds of *Dunroſeneſs*, is a range of Hills very high, called the Clift Hills, lying alongſt a narrow Arm of the Sea, two Miles in Breadth, dividing the Iſle of *Burra* from the Continent or Main-land: theſe Hills are five or ſix Miles in Length, and very Steep to travell through, they lye from Weſter *Quarf* in the Pariſh of *Burra*, South-Eaſt to *Maweek*, where is a Creek or Voe, running two Bow-draught within the Land, but no Harbour, except for littleBoats. Southward from *Maweek* lyes an Hill called *Ireland*, Head, from which toward South-Eaſt lyes a *Village* called *Ireland*, where ſtand the Walls and Steeple of an old Kirk, and from that South-Eaſt a Quarter of a Mile ſtands a Gentleman's Houſe call'd *Bigtoun* and a *Dutch Booth* built by *Bigtoun*, for the uſe of an *Hamburgh* Merchant, who lyes there in the Summer time, and makes Merchant Fiſhes. Oppoſite to which (diſtant from the Continent, a Quarter of a Mile towards the South) lyes an Iſle caled St. *Ninians* Iſle, about a Mile in length, and half a Mile in Breadth.

This Iſle of St. *Ninians*, is very pleaſant and Fertile, in it is another Church call'd St. *Ninians* Kirk: this Iſland is but an Iſthmus or Peninſule; for from the Continent ſouthward, toward the midle of the Iſle, the Sea is divided by a Bank of Sand, and Channel, about twentie paces in breadth, by which they goe both on Horſe and Foot, as dry and ſafe, as in any place, excepting when it blows a a ſtreſs, at Weſt or North weſt, at which time, the *Air* or *Bank* is all covered over with the Sea, except when it is a Low water, at which time, the *Iſlanders* (when neceſſity requireth) will venture forth upon their Horſes bred for that purpoſe, who will cauticuſly wait a Lay, and ſo at the regreſs of the Surges, they come ſafely through.

Hard by this Iſle toward South-Eaſt, lyeth a little Iſle, or *Holm*, not inhabited or manured, but very commodious for Paſturage of Sheep: in this *Holm* are a great many Sea Fowles, (of which an

account ſhall be given in the Chapter concerning the Natural Hiſtory of theſe Iſlands) which here Neſt and Hatch their young ones, they are very profitable to the Inhabitants of St. *Ninians* Iſle, by reaſon of their Feathers (for which alone I knew a *Few* ſent from *Holland* for that part of Trade,) and their Eggs alſo are eſteemed very good Meat, being boilled hard, and eaten with Vinegar. Betweeen St. *Ninians* Iſle and the Continent, there is a Road or Bay entering from the South; here Ships may ride ſafe enough in the Summer time.

From *Bigtoun* toward the South-Eaſt, (half a Mile diſtant) lyeth a Village called *Rear-week*, pleaſant and fertile: here is another Creek or Voe, a good Harbour for little Boats, but no Harbour for Ships.

From *Rear-week*, a Mile toward the South-Eaſt, there is another Village called *Scouſburgh*, where is another *Creek* or *Voe*, which entering from Weſt North-weſt, runs a Quarter of a Mile within the Land, yet is not a ſafe Harbour for Ships, except when the Wind is at *E*aſt and North-Eaſt. Here the *Hollands* Galiots will ſometimes ly till they ſupply themſelves with Water and other neceſſaries. Upon the South ſide of this *Voe* is an head called *Foraneſs*, which lyes out into the Sea a quarter of a Mile. Oppoſite to which, toward North-Weſt, is a little Iſle or Holm called *Colza*, not a Mile in Circumference, this Iſle is not inhabited, nor manured, but affoords excellent paſture for Sheep and Neat; the Sheep here, are extraordinarly *F*at. Upon the South-Eaſt ſide of *Foraneſs*, is another *Creek* or *voe*, call'd *Spiggie*, it is full of ragged Rocks, or *Skerries* in the entrie, and ſo no Harbour for Ships, but ſafe enough for Boats.

From *Spiggie*, toward the South, a qnarter of a Mile diſtant, is another Village called *Noſſe*, where is another *Creek* or *Voe*, but no Harbour for either Boat or Ship.

From *Noſſe* to *Fitfell-head*, toward South and South-Eaſt, the length of four Miles, are very Rocks all along, without any Creek ſave one, called *Bergalie*, Northweſt from the point of *Fitfell* two Miles, but neither is this any Harbour.

Fitfell-head is a very high Hill, or Promontorie, very Conſpicuous to Seamen: within this head toward the Eaſt, is another Creek, on the Eaſt ſide of which, there is one called *Gairths-Neſs*, within which toward the Eaſt, is *Quendal* Bay, which entering from the South, runs more than a Mile within the land. In the Entry of this Bay, are three little Iſles, or *Holms*, the Weſtmoſt (diſtant from *Gairthſneſs*, a large Mile of Sea) is called *Croſſeholm*, it is good Paſture for Sheep. The next lying hard by it, toward South-Eaſt, is call'd *Swine-Iſland*, it is a very little Holm, and lyes very low. The third South-Eaſt from it (hard by the Land, on the other ſide of the Bay) is called *Horſe-Iſland*; it is a very high Holm, but little, there is no entring of this Bay with Ships, on the Eaſt ſide of theſe Holms, nor yet between them; but between *Croſs-Holm* (the Weſtmoſt of the three) and *Gairthſueſs* is a very ſpacious Entry, without any Rocks or Shoals.

This Bay is too open for a Winter Harbour, but very commo-

dious

dious for the *Hollanders* in Summer time. The beſt Anchoring ground is in the Weſt ſide of the Bay, in a little Creek or *Voe* called *Gairths-Banks*, a Mile diſtant from the outmoſt part of *Gairths-Neſs*.

The Bay has its name from *Quendal*, the Seat of a Gentleman of the Name of *St. Clare*, one of the moſt ancient and richeſt Heritors in this part of the Main-land; whoſe Predeceſſor honourably relieved the Duke of *Medina Sidonia*, when Shipwrack'd in the *Fair-Iſle* belonging to him.

From *Gairthsbank* to *Quendale*, (a Quarter of a Mile) is a very pleaſant Platt of fertile Land, as likewiſe from *Quendale* North-weſt to *Spiggie*, but from *Quendale* (a large half Mile toward South-Eaſt, Eaſt and North-Eaſt) is nothing but ſand, whereas, within theſe fiftie years, it was all Corn Land, and pleaſant Meadows. It is a white Sand ſo admirably light, that with but an ordinarie guſt of Wind, it flies ſo thick, that (like Miſt) it darkens the Horizon. In the midſt of this ſand, (at the end of *Quendal* Bay) ſtands the South Kirk of *Dunroſeneſs*, called the *Croſs-Kirk*, a Church prettie large and well repleniſhed, but of no Magnificent ſtructure, yet equall to (if not exceeding) the reſt of the Countrey. This Church is ſurrounded with Banks of Sand, two or three paces diſtant from the Water, conſequently no good Burial place, for, if it blow but an ordinary gale, many of the Coffins are diſcovered, and ſometime naked Corpſes; for all have not Coffins. To the South wall of this Church, are affixed two Monuments, one very Large, and very curiouſly cut, at the Expences of *Hector Bruce* of *Mowaneſs*: another (not ſo large nor ſo fine) belonging to *Lawrence Sinclair* of *Quendale*: there are other two, within the Church, ſtanding upon Pillars, one pertaining to *Robert Bruce* of *Soumburgh*, another to *Quendale*; beſides theſe are no graved Stone Inſcriptions or Monuments within *Dunroſeneſs*.

On the Eaſt ſide of *Quendal* Bay, lyes a platt of Ground, dry and very pleaſant, all good Corn Land: this they call the Neſs. It is in length from North weſt to South Eaſt. *Viz*, from the head of *Quendale Bay*, to *Soumburgh head*, two large Miles: about a large Mile downward from the head of *Quendale Bay*, toward South Eaſt, is a *Creek* or *Voe*, entering South weſt (in the mouth of the Bay, hard by *Horſe-Iſland*) called *Weſt Voe*, a very good Harbour for Ships, in the Summer time, but too open for a Winter Harbour. Hard by this *Voe*, toward South and South-Eaſt, ſtand the Walls of a ruinous houſe, Built by *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney*, and (a Bow-draught from it) the Houſe of *Soumburgh*, a Houſe prettie large formal, and very well ſituat: A little from which (toward South-Eaſt) is *Soumburgh-head*, a very high Hill, or Promontorie, verie Conſpicuous to Seamen; it is in length from North to South, a large half Mile, narrow toward the South point of it. Here is excellent Paſture for Horſes, Sheep, and Neat. Off this head, there is a very impetuous Tide called the *Rouſt*. A South South-Eaſt Moon, makes high VVater here.

Haveing thus deſcribed the Weſt ſide of *Dunroſeneſs*, we come now to the Eaſt ſide of it, and beginning from the South point of *Soumburgh-head*, (*viz*, from South to North) We reckon from it to *Lowſie-Law*, a very Low head, at the entrie of *Gratneſs-voe*,

some more than a Mile. Within *Lowsi-Law* (toward West & North west) is the entrie to two *Bayes* or *Voes*, divided by a narrow neck of Land, called *Wilsness*. The *Voes* are these; that on the South-East side of *Wilsness*, is *Gratness-voe*, which (entering from East and North-East) runs a Quarter of a Mile within the Land: here lyes the *Dundees* Vessel till she receive her Loading, *viz.* Fishes, Butter, Oyl, Beef, Hides, and Tallow. On the South East side of this *voe*, and near about the midle of it, is *Gratness*, or *Greedy-Ness*, where the *Dundee* Merchants have their Booths, as also some Taverners, (who in the Summer time) have their residence there, for selling of Ale, Beer, and Brandie to these Merchants, and their Customers who resort thither. The other *voe*, lying on the Northwest of *Wilsness*, and running also a quarter of a Mile, within the Land, is called the *Dutch-pool*, because the *Dutch* and *Hamburgh* Merchants were used to lye there, and make Merchant Fishes: this is the only safe Winter Harbour, in this Parish, only the entrie of it is a little dangerous, if it blow at East, or North-East, by reason of Sholes, except at a Full Sea, and a Stream Tide. Above this *Voe*, toward West and North west, is a large Platt of Fertile ground, and pleasant Meadows.

From this Bay, the Land lyes North & North East, two large Miles to the *Voe* of *Skelberry*, which runs near half a Mile, within the Land. This is no Harbour for Ships, being full of Sholes and Rocks.

From this *Voe*, the Land lyes North and North-East, (with high Rocks, all along, and some little Creeks) three large Miles to *Leven week Sound*. South & South-west from *Leven week* (a large Mile distant) lye the Ruins of two Forts, built by the *Picts*, upon a Rock, close by the Sea: a little besouth which, are three blind Rocks, called the *Balles* of *Clumley*, two of them lye hard by the Shore, the third more than a Bow draught off: they are to be seen at a low water: within the outmost of these *Balls* or *Skerries*, a Ship of good Burden (if acquainted) may pass without hazard, but if unacquainted they will doe well to keep without them.

Leven-week Sound, enters from South-East and runs North-west two Miles within the Land, it is in Breadth, a large Mile: Here the *Hollands Busses*, or *Herring* Fishers, will ly in great Numbers, sometimes to the Number of an Hundred Sale at once, to whom the people from all Quarters, resort with Stockings, woven Gloves, Garters, Feathers *&c.* which they exchange with the *Hollanders* for Tobacco, Brandie, Shoes, Boots, Money *&c.*

Round about this Sound are Villages, and Arable Land with some Moor interjected, good for Pasturage, and Fuell.

On the North East side of the Sound, is the Ness of *Comly-Week* (very commodious for Pasturing of Horses, Neat and Sheep) within which toward the East, is the Bay of *Sandwick*, which entering from South, runs a large half mile within the Land; a good Harbour for Ships in the Summer time. At the head of this Bay is the Kirk of *Sandwick*, a Kirk of as good a Figure, and Order, as any almost in this Country. Here is a platt of ground, very pleasant, and indifferently fertile. Alongst the East side of this Bay, is a Ness, good Pasture for Horses, Neat, and Sheep, called *Noness*, in the South end

of

of which Ness, is a very high Hill, call'd *Noness-head*, here are very great Seas, when it blowes at South and South-East.

From this Head, the Land lyes North, for the length of a short Mile, (*Viz.* to *Sands Air*) and near about the midst, betwixt *Noness-head* and *Sands Air* (a short mile distant from the Shore toward the East) lyes an Isle called *Mousa*, or *Queens-Island*, in length from North to South, scarce a Mile, and a Quarter of a Mile in Breadth: it was formerly inhabited, and a part of it manured, but now is only appropriat for Pasturing of Neat, Horses, and Sheep. In the West side of this Isle toward the Land is a Castle, or Fort, built, as is supposed, by the *Picts*; it is of a Pyramidal Form, or like a round Dovecoat, drawing narrow toward the top; the Rooms of it, have been in the Walls around the House, it is built close by the Shore, and the Sea by an under Passage flowes up within it.

I take the rise to discourse of our first building with Stone and Lime, in the North part of *Britain* and the Isles, from what is said of the *Picts* Houses, and I am of Mr. *Maul*'s opinion, that the *Picts* were a more Civil people than the other Inhabitants of this Isle, and learn'd first from the Romans the Art of Building. Mr. *Maul*'s words are, *Mea opinione videntur* Scoti & Picti, *ex Lapidibus & calce ædificandi rationem primum accepisse, ex opere illo* Romano, *quod extruxit Legio* Romana, *jam non amplius redituro*, Eugenio Fergusii *secundi filio apud nos regente, qui a Jhuc an tutela* Græmi Proregis, *avi sui materni, hi enim, ut nostri referunt, ubi Vallum antea a* Severo *ductum fuerat, murum e Lapidibus extruunt, octo pedes latum, duodecim altum, ac eum in ambitu castellis distinguebant, quorum nonnulla Oppidorum speciem præferebant. Principium autem ducebat in Agris* Pictorum, *ab* Abercorno *Arce, finiebatur autem haud procul* Britannodouo, *in* Scotorum *Regione; ut utraque Gens, antea ignara Architecturæ, inde exemplum sumpserit ab Ædicula vero illa rotunda quæ est ad* Carontem *Amnem* Scotos *desumpsisse exemplaria Ædificiorum primorum credibile est, ut & Pictos, nonnullæ enim hujusmodi adhuc in insulis tum* Hethlandicis, *tum* Orcadensibus *integræ remanent, tum & in* Rossia *Regione: Brehini item turris Sacræ ædis rotunda, pervetustum opus, at post ædificata, quam illæ quæ in Insulis sunt tum ad* Carrontem, *quæ omnes ex Lapidibus sine cæmento constructæ sunt; ista autem quæ Brenini & calce coagmentata, quam vetustiorem, ac prius ædificatam, quam ipsa Sacra ædes, ex cohæsione Turris cum æde satis facile videre licet. Est & hinc altera* Abrenethii, *quæ Regia quondam* Pictorum, *ex cæsa item lapide ac calce firmata, ego facile crederem* Pictorum *utrumque Opus.*

An vero Romani, *an ipsi Barbari, ædiculam rotundam quæ ad* Carrontem *est, ædificaverint, ac ibi pro fano constituerint incertum apud nostros Scriptores: ego a nostris excitatum opinarer, quia adhuc in ultima* Rossia, *qua nunquam* Romanorum *arma penetrarunt, hujusmodi adhuc quædam exiant integra ædificia & majora & laxiora: Præterea multis in locis ruinæ ac Rudera talium quondam ædicularum Orbicularium, quæ ut plurimum in locis editioribus cernuntur, ab Incolis vero appellantur* Crunnach, *quam vocem prisci sermonis periti interpretantur Gentis rotunda ædificia, & ibi certe* Ptolemeus *collocat* Creones; *quæ vox efformata videtur a vocabulo Patrio* Crunach.

In Hethlandicis *Inſulis plurimæ hujuſmodi ædiculæ ſunt, quæ vulgo a* Pictis *excitatæ creduntur. Illic certe adhuc* Pictorum *Ædificia monſtrantur ex magnis & quadratis* Saxis *aſperis conſtructa, rotunda, ad omnia ſimilia Ædiculæ rotundæ quæ eſt ad* Carrontem *Amnem, ac creditur opus quondam* Romanorum *fuiſſe, ab optimis quibuſque* Scriptoribus, *& ad hujus formam cætera omnia quæ vel in* Roſſia *vel proximis Inſulis ſunt, ædificata eſſe.*

At iſtâ quæ in Inſulis longe ſunt majora, cubilia vero non humi in ſolo, ſed in craſſitie muri, ad quæ aſcenditur ab imo circumitione quædam muri turbinatim adinſtar cochleæ, & ſic ad ſummum faſtigium, ut ſe quis circuire quam aſcendere credat.

Hujus generis adhuc unum in inſula Mouſſa *integrum, e cujus imo ſolo deſcenſus eſt ſubterraneus quem incolæ aiunt pertingere uſque ad proximum mare, quod non inde procul diſtat, ibique exitum ſortiri, ubi quondam Incolæ* Picti *ſcaphas & Naviculas habebant in omnes fortunæ eventus parata; ut ſi qua vi aut fraude ab Hoſtibus Domus capta fuiſſet, ſeu obſeſſa, ut ſe per deſcenſum tanquam per Cuniculos ad mare ſeſe recipere potuiſſent, ac hoſtium manus ſic evadere.*

But to return; from *Sands Air* (of which we ſpoke,) the Land lyes North East, for the length of two Miles, *Viz.* to *Cunisburgh*, where is another Kirk, built in the time of Poperie: above this Kirk Northward (two large Miles) is only Arable Land and Meadows, a very pleaſant platt of ground.

From the Kirk of *Cunysburgh*, the Land lyes again East and South-East, the length of two Bow draughts, making a little *Voe* or Bay beſide the Kirk, but it is very open, and full of *Skerries*, and therefore no Harbour: but from the Kirk, two Bow-draught eaſtward, is another *Bay* or *Voe*, called *Aithſ-voe*, entering from South, and running North (a large half Mile) within the Land. It is a narrow *Voe* and an Harbour good enough for ſmall Ships, even in the Winter time. On the Eaſt ſide of this *Voe*, lyes a *Neſs* called *Holy-Neſs*, a Mile and an half in length, from the end of which Neſs, toward Eaſt and North-Eaſt, Enters *Breſſey Sound*; along which *Dunroſeneſs* lyes, North-Weſt, four Miles to Eaſter-*Quarf* in the Pariſh of *Burra*.

Thus you ſee that the Arable Land and places Inhabited in *Dunroſeneſs* lye around the Coaſt; now the land Interjected, is Hills, very commodious for Paſturage of Horſes, Neat, and Sheep, as likewiſe for Fewell, where, Mark, that they who live neareſt the Hill are beſt accommodat, in all the Reſpects before mentioned.

Dunroſeneſs was of Old, divided into three Pariſhes, but now only into two; (united under one Miniſtrie) *Viz.* the South Pariſh or Pariſh of *Croſs-Kirk*, and the Pariſh of *Sandwick*, the people of *Cunisburgh* now reſorting to *Sandwick*. As concerning the reſt of the Kirks and Chapels in *Dunroſeneſs*, by whom they have been built, and upon what occaſion, cannot be certainly determined: ſome think they have been built by Shipwracked Men in the time of Popery, and Dedicated to their Guardian Saints: others that the *Udallers* of this place (being men of Subſtance) have built them for their own conveniencie and Eaſe.

Dunroſeneſs, as it is the moſt fertile, ſo it is above Compariſon the

the moſt Populous place in all *Zetland:* the only grains that grow in this place, are *Oats* and *Bear*, of which (if they ſold none to other places of the Country) they would ſeldome want as much as ſerve themſelves, which is the peculiar advantage of this place. There is good ſtore of Sheep, Neat, and Horſes here; but the Wool is very rough, yet of it they make the fineſt Stuffs and Stockings, that you will readily find of Wool, but it coſts them a great deal of pains to fine it. Their Cloth is not ſo good here: they were wont to make very Courſe Cloth, (called *Wadmiln*) the threeds whereof, were as thick as Fiſhers Lines, and this they payed to the *Danes*, as a part of their Superiour Duties, but now they ſpin it ſmall enough, but they have no Cloth Milns to thicken it, and therefore (being thickened only with hands) it is not dureable. Their Mutton for the moſt part being poudered, (that is ſalted) is dryed in little Houſes, which they call *Skees*, Houſes built of dry Stones without any Morter that the Wind may have free paſsage through them, for which cauſe they call the Meat ſo dryed, Blowen Meat, which really is not unpleaſant.

The Oxen and Cows here, are prettie big, a great deal taller than in *Orkney*, but the Horſes are very little generally, not exceeding nine hands breadth, an Horſe of twelve hand breadth hight (which is but rare here) is eſteemed a very tall Horſe, but to ſpeak truth, they are metalled above belief.

Some of the Gentlemen here, have very tall Horſe, for their own Sadles, which they bring from *Caithneſs* or *Orkney*, Here were wont to be great plentie of Fiſhes, but now they are much decayed, whereby you may perceive (Fiſhes being the chief income here) how much this place (as alſo the reſt of the Country) is impoveriſhed, yet not ſo much by the decay of Fiſhes, as by the exorbitant exactions of the Cuſtomers that come to this Countrey: whereby they have baniſhed the *Dutch* and *Hollanders* from this place, without whoſe Commerce it can hardly ſubſiſt. The ſeverall kinds of Fiſhes here are theſe, Killing, Ling, Tuſk, Turbat, Skeat, Seaths, Sea-dogs, (here called Hoes) and Podlocks (here Piltocks) which three laſt are very beneficial, by reaſon of the Oyl they make of their Livers, which is one chief commodity of this place.

Of the Fiſhes they take, ſome they ſalt, ſome they hang in Skees till they be ſowre, and theſe they call Blowen Fiſhes, which indeed are very delicious, & eaſie to be concocted: here they make no Stock-Fiſhes: another chief product of this place is Butter, which here they make very good. Here likewiſe are many Swine, whereof they make delicious Hamms, only the Swine here are little.

The Pariſh of *Croſs-Kirk*, hath this great advantage, that they never want Ale, whereas the reſt of the Countrie, (abſtracting from the Towns, and ſome few Gentlemens Houſes) they have ſeldom or never other drink in the Winter, but *Bland*, or rather *Blend*, being a Liquor blended or mixed of Milk and Water, which flowes from the Butter, this they Tunn up in Puncheons in the Summer time, and keep it till Winter, it is then in colour, like White Wine, they aſcribe to it a vertue to warm the Stomach, which muſt be

from the Acrimonie of it, they are accuſtomed to drink it without prejudice, but they that are not, will quickly find Damage by it, for it is the moſt aſtringent Liquor that ever I taſted. *Experto credo.*

There are no Woods, nor Forreſts, no Parks nor Orchards in this place; here are no Partridges, nor Moorfoul, but abundance of Duck, Teal, Plivers &c. there are no Foxes, no Toads, no Snakes, nor any Venemous Creature: here were abundance of Rabbets, but many of them are deſtroyed by Weaſels, maliciouſly brought hither by His Majeſties Falconer, becauſe once refuſed Rabbets to his Hawks.

There are no Rivers, but very good Springs; yet none we know Medicinal: there are ſome Loughs in this place, but not very Big; one in the North weſt part of the Pariſh called the Lough of *Valeſeter*, about a *Mile* and an half in circumference: the next SouthEaſt from it, and three Miles diſtant, is the Lough of *Scouſburgh*, near two Miles in Circumference: the third, South-Eaſt from it half a Mile, is the Lough of *Hilwell*, ſcarce a Mile in Circumference: the fourth, North Eaſt from it a Mile, is the Lough of *Skelberry* about a Mile and an halt in circumference. The fifth, North-Eaſt from it ſome more than a Mile, is the Lough of *Clumely*, about a Mile in Circumference. The *6th*, in the Northmoſt end of *Dunroſeneſs*, is the Lough of *Flathbuſter*, about a Mile and an half in circumference. Theſe Loughs are repleniſhed with no Fiſhes, but Trouts (whereof they have plenty) but all of them very good for Gunning, having abundance of Ducks, Teals, Swans, *&c*

We know of no Mineral here, nor ſubſtance caſt up by the Sea, except the Wrack of Broken Ships, whereof the Admiral diſpoſeth.

This Countrie with *Orkney* is a Stewartrie, the greater Affairs whereof are (in the Stewards abſence) managed by a Steward Deputie, or Deputies; the leſſer by Baillies (commiſſionated by the Steward) in their reſpective Pariſhes and Iſles.

The Inhabitants of the South Pariſh, are (for the moſt part) Strangers from *Scotland*, and *Orkney* whoſe Language, Habite, Manners and Diſpoſitions, are almoſt the ſame with the *Scottiſh*, only here they are much more Sagacious and ſubtile, and withall falſe and deceitfull, proud above meaſure, Stubborn if ſoftly, but Flexible if roughly handled, not unfitly compared by a certain Gentleman to the Thiſtle, which if you grip not hard, will prick you

They are generally great Drinkers, and withall Venereous and Quarelſome, their Language is the ſame with the *Scotiſh*, yet all the Natives can ſpeak the *Gothick* or *Norvegian* Tongue: they are generally very ſharp, and very docile: by reaſon of their Commerce with the *Hollander*, they promptly ſpeak *Low-Dutch*. In this Pariſh are many Gentlemen, who are either *Sinclairs* or *Stewarts*, the Offspring of ſeveral Earls of *Orkney*, or *Bruces* from *Scotland*, who are (except ſome Kings-Land, and ſome *Udall-Land* poſſeſsed by ſome of the *Udallers*) Proprietaries of all *Dunroſeneſs*.

The Inhabitants of the North Pariſh are, very few excepted, Natives of the place, yet of the ſame habit, Manners and Diſpoſition with the other, excepting that here they are very ſober, leſs

venereous

venereous and Quarrelsome, and withall richer. Here are many *Udallers*, Proprietaries of the Land manured by them, these are Men of substance: all the Inhabitants of this Parish can speak the *Gothick* or *Norvegian* Language, and seldom speak other among themselves, yet all of them speak the *Scots* Tongue, more promptly, and more properly, than generally, they do in *Scotland*.

Their Hospitality here must not be pretermitted, wherein a common Farmer doth farr exceed the Gentlemen of other places.

The Description of the *FAIR ISLE*.

Chapter second.

THe *Fair-Isle*, lyes near about the midst between *Orkney* and *Zeatland*, and from it (if the *Horizon* be clear) you may have a Prospect of both Countries: of *Zetland*, a very clear view, but not so distinct of *Orkney*, because the Land lyes low.

This Isle is in length from North to South, three Miles, but very narrow, not exceeding a large half mile, in the broadest place: the *Hollanders* (who usually Cruiz about it) reckon it three Leagues in circumference: here are very Impetuous Tides, which (without a good Gale of Wind,) no Ship is able to cutt: a South-South-East Moon causeth high Water here.

This is a very high lying Land having three Hills or Promontories; two in the West-side: one near the South-end called *Malcolms-head*; another near the North-end called the *Wart*; a third on the East side called *Vasseter*, to which is adjoined the *Sheeps Craig*, a very high Rock about a quarter of a Mile in Circumference; it hath excellent Grass for Sheep and the Sheep there are admirably Fatt; they use no *Doggs* to take them, but Men on foot catch them without difficulty, for being chased but once about the Rock they fall of their own accord, which if they do not the Shepherd concludes them not fat enough for Slaughter: the only entrie to this Rock is from the Sea, for it lyes low in the East Corner only, and ascends by degrees towards the West; in the midst of it is an excellent Spring, and under it just about the midst, the Sea runs through it as through a Vault of well polished work; where small Boats sometimes (to shun the Violence of the Tides) pass through safely.

This Rock as I said is adjoined to the Land, yet only in the bottom of it, and thirtie Fathoms upward by a Narrow neck of Ground, above which about an 100 Fathoms hight it is divided from *Vasseter* the adjacent Promontory, so as there can be no entrie to it from the Land, whereas within these 40 or 50 years it was Levell ground.

In this Isle are two Harbours, one in the South end of the Isle, called the South Harbour, entering from South-South-East, it is full of Rocks, and no Harbour for Ships, but commodious for *Orkney* Boats that travel to *Zetland*. In the South-west neck of this Creek or *Voe*, is a Booth, built by *Quendale* proprietarie of the Isle, for the use of an *Hamburgh* Merchant, who used to lye there, and

make Merchant *Fiſhes*, hard by which ſtands the Kirk of the Iſle: the other Harbour lying Weſt and North-Eaſt from it, about a Mile and an half, is called the *North-Haven*; it lyes on the Eaſt ſide of the Iſle, benorth the *Sheep-Craig*, and enters from Eaſt North Eaſt: this Harbour is clean enough, having no Rocks nor Sholes, but one very ſmall and high Rock, good for fixing of a Land Rope; the only ſafe entrie to this Harbour is in the North ſide of that little Rock: here ſmall Ships may ride ſafe enough in the Summer time, but it is no good Winter Harbour.

This Iſle is ſurrounded, with very high Rocks, all along, ſave only in the South-end, and North-eaſt part of it, in both which places, are many *Skerries* or Ragged Rocks: on each ſide of the Iſle, are ſome little Creeks, where (if the Wind blow not on the Land) a Ship may ſtop a Tide.

This Iſle is indifferently fertile ſo far as it is manured, yeelding greater increaſe, than any Land in *Zetland*, but the Cultivated ground of it is but little, lying all together in the South end of the Iſle, the reſt they reſerve for Paſturage and Fewell, though the moſt part of the Iſle might be made good Corn-Land: their Graſs here is very ſhort, but very Fatt, as appears by the more than ordinary fattneſs of their Milk and *Butter*: there is no grain here but Oats and *Bear*, whereof they ſeldome want as much as ſerves themſelves: no Woods here nor Loughs, no Rivers, no *Broom*, no Whins, no Partridges no Moorfowles; but there are here Multitudes of Sea Fowles, which are not a little beneficial to the Iſlanders by reaſon of their *Feathers*, which is one chief Commoditie of this place, but they buy them dear, with their hazard always, and ſometime the loſs of their Lives, for they Neſt in high Rocks, more then a 100 Fathom depth from the Surface of the Earth, as many Fathoms high from the Sea, they goe down in Ropes to catch them and ſometimes in ſtead of catching the prey, they ſometime catch a ſlip and are either cruſhed on the Rocks, or drowned in the depth. An excellent Falcon neſts and hatcheth in this place, whoſe young ones are taken with the ſame difficultie and hazard, that the Sea Fowles are caught.

The chiefeſt income of this Iſle, is Fiſhes, whereof they have great plenty. *Viz.* Killing, Ling, Skeat, Turbatt, Seaths, Seadogs (here called Hoes) and Podlocks (here Piltocks) which three laſt are very beneficial, by reaſon of the oyl, which they make of their Livers.

Of the Fiſhes they take (ſuch as are for their own uſe) ſome they eat freſh, ſome they hang in Skeos till they be ſoure, and theſe they call blown Fiſh: ſuch as they deſign for Merchant Ware, ſome they ſalt, ſome they hang freſh in Skeos, till they be perfectly dry, and theſe they call Stock Fiſhes, whereof they have great plenrie here.

This Iſle is reckoned ten Leagues, or thirtie Miles from *Zetland* yet is united with the Miniſtrie of *Dunroſeneſs*, the Miniſter whereof goes thither once a Year, where for the ſpace of ſix Weeks (leſs or more, according to his conveniencie) he daily diſcharges ſome

part

part of his Miniſterial Function, preaching frequently. There is a little Church here, more regular, and more orderly frequented, than will be eaſily believed: they have always a *Reader*, who every Sabbath reads the *Sacred Scriptures*, and in the Miniſters abſence Catechizes them: and it is worth the marking, that Fornication, and other ſuch eſcapes (frequent in other places) are very rare here.

The Inhabitants of this Iſle, are (for the moſt part) from *Zetland*, whoſe Language, Habit, Manners and Diſpoſitions, are almoſt the ſame with theirs, only here all the Inhabitants are bald: for which cauſe the *Zetlanders* ſay of them, that there is not an Hair between them and Heaven: they themſelves aſcribe the cauſe of their Baldneſs to their exceſſive toyling in Rowing through Impetuous Tydes; But I rather incline to believe, that their baldneſs proceeds from Scals, for all of them being full of Scals while they are young, doeth neceſſarly occaſion their loſs of Hair. Now their *Scalyneſs* may be judged to proceed either from their Neſtineſs, or (which I am apt to believe) from the dropping of the *Fiſhes*, which hang above their Heads, as they enter their *Skeos*.

The Inhabitants of this Iſle, were of late Men of conſiderable Subſtance, but now they are greatly Impovriſhed, not ſo much through depredations, as that the *Engliſh* and *Hollanders* take not them in their way, for the occaſional accels of Strangers is their greateſt advantage for vending their *Fiſhes*, *Feathers*, *&c.*

One memorable Accident, here occurs, namely that the Duke of *Medina*, Admiral of the Formidable *Spaniſh Armado* (in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, *Anno* 1588) here ſuffered Shipwrack in a Creek on the Eaſt ſide of this Iſle, where the Ship ſplit, but the Duke with 200 Men came to Shore alive, and wintered here in great Miſerie, for the *Spaniards* at firſt eating up all they could find, not only Neat, Sheep, *Fiſhes*, and Fowls, but alſo Horſes, the Iſlanders in the Night, carried off their Beaſts and Victual to places in the *Iſle*, where the *Spaniards* might not find them: the Officers alſo ſtrictly commanded the Souldiers to take nothing but what they payed for, which they did very largely, ſo that the People were not great loſers by them, having got a great many *Spaniſh Ryalls*, for the Victualls they gave them, but now the People fearing a *Famine* among themſelves, kept up their Victuals from the *Spaniards*; thus all ſupply from the Iſle failing them, they took their own *Bread* (which they had preſerved) which being dipt in *Fiſh* oyl, they did eat, which being alſo ſpent, it came to paſs, that many of them died for Hunger, and the reſt were ſo weakned, that one or two of the Iſlelanders finding a few of them together, could eaſily throw them over the Banks, by which means many of them died, at length all ſuſtenance failing, not only to the *Spaniards*, but alſo to the Iſlelanders, they ſent a ſmall Boat or Yole to *Zetland*, deſireing a Ship to carrie them out, leſt all the Inhabitants of the Iſle ſhould be famiſhed. Notice came to *Andrew Umphrey* of *Burry* (then Proprietarie of the Iſle) who having a Ship of his own, inſtantly went to the *Iſle*, and brought them to *Zetland*, where for the ſpace of 20 days, or a Moneth, they met

with better Entertainment. The *Duke* stayed at *Quendale* till the ship was readie, where (imagining the People did admire him) he made his Interpreter ask *Malcolm Sinclair* of *Quendale*, if ever he had seen such a Man? to which *Malcolm* in broad *Scots* (unintelligible to the Interpreter) replyed, *Farcie in that face, I have seen many prettier men hanging in the Burrow-Moor.*

From *Zetland Andrew Umphrey* carried them in his little Ship to *Dunkirk*, for which the Duke rewarded him with three thousand Merks.

The Description of *BURRAY.*

Chapter third.

Burray is so called, because it signifies a Burrough or Brugh: it lyes upon the West side of the Main-land of *Zetland*, some what Southerly, every where encompassed with the Sea, and is divided into two Islands, to wit, *Kirk-Island* and *House-Island*: *Kirk-Island* lyes Westmost, being in length from *Keth-ness* Southward, to *Brunwin-ness* Northward, four Miles and an half, and in breadth (even where it is broadest) not a quarter of a Mile, from East to West; the South-most and westmost parts of it are covered with Grass, the Northmost, and Eastmost, with Heather.

Here is a Church, within a Mile to the Southmost end of the Island, standing near to the Sound side of *Burray*, called St. *Lawrence* Church, (Built as it is reported, by the Mid-most of the three *Norvegian* Sisters, the eldest having built the Church of *Tingwall*, and the youngest sister the Church of *Ireland*) the steeple whereof, will be five or six Stories high, though a little Church, yet very fashionable, and its *Sanctum Sanctorum* (or Quire) yet remains.

Here, near a Mile and a half from the Northmost end of this Island, there is a Chapell in *Brough* (the highest place Inhabited within the Island) how it is named, or by whom it was built it is not known: now it is become altogether ruinous.

There are two or three sterile Loughs, or rather Pooles: here are two rich Coniegars, the one in the Links of *Mean* Southward, and the other in the Links of *Meal*, Northward.

There is a Sound that divides *Kirk-Island* and *House-Island* called *Burray* Sound, and from South to North, it is six or eight Miles in length, at the South-most end, it will be a Mile of Breadth, and at the Northmost end, half a Mile, but in the midle of it from East to West, very narrow; which at *Grunzie* Sound, every Sixth hour, Ebbs dry. Where when it flows there is a Current of *Tyd-gate*; the Southmost end of this Sound, a long Mile from the Sea, it is deep water, and good Anchor ground, in a small Bay whereof toward the West North-west, an *Hamburgher* Merchant lyes with a Ship yearly in the Summer, for making of *Fish*, and buying of other Commodities of the Countrey: to the North and East of this, are many blind Rocks, Shelves, and base foul ground, commonly

called the Bacs of *Sumbister*, and of *Paphill*, and of *Norbister*, &c. where no Ships frequent, but in the Northmoſt end of this Sound the Water is deeper, and the ground clearer, where are two ſmall Holms, the one ſtraight befouth the other.

Houſe-Iſland lyes Eaſtmoſt, being in length from *Houſe-neſs* Southward to *Walſees Air* Northward, three Miles and a half. The South-moſt end whereof is covered with Graſs, and the North-moſt with Heather. In *Houſe-neſs* there is a Promontorie with a Wart upon the top of it.

Here, within a Mile of the Southmoſt end of the Iſland, is a Gentlemans dwelling-Houſe oppoſite to the Church on the other ſide of the Sound, whoſe Sirname is *Sinclair*, above an Hundred years ſtanding in this Countrey.

This Iſland hath on the Eaſt ſide of it, *Cliſt-Sound* (ſo called from the high hills above it, the Clifts which diſjoyn it from the Continent or Main-land) this Sound is twelve Miles in length, running from *Mavetwick* Southward, to *Scalloway* Northward, and in Breadth (from Eaſt to Weſt) in ſome places two Miles, in ſome places one Mile, in ſome places half a Mile, and in one place which is at the Deick-end of *Howle*, near *Scalloway*, not a quarter of a quarter of Mile, where in high Water, it will be five or ſix Fathom; & Southward ſtill deeper, till you come to twentie two Fathom, which is at the South entrie, the ground is clean, but few Ships Anchor in it, except in a little Bay of it, cloſs under *Houſe*, where is a ſmall Skerrie in the mouth of the ſame, and the reaſon of it is, becauſe it is the South way that leads to *Scalloway*, where there is a good Road.

To the South-Eaſt, and South-South Eaſt of *Burray*, lyes *Mavewick*, *Ireland*, and St. *Ninians* Iſle, in *Dunroſeneſs* pariſh, with the Interjection of the outmoſt mouth of *Cliſt-ſound*, two or three Miles breadth.

To the due South of *Burray*, lyes *Havery* (an inhabited Iſland, belonging to the Pariſh of *Burray*, a Mile diſtant from the ſame) it hath on the South, and the Weſt, the Ocean, in length lying South-Eaſt and North-weſt, it is three quarters of a Mile, and in Breadth lying North-Eaſt and South-weſt, is not above a quarter of a Mile, it is all covered with Graſs: here one Ewe, hath very ordinarly two Lambs, and here doth no *Mouſe* nor Rat live, yea its *Mold* or ground, hath ſuch a vertue, that if it be carried to places where *Mice* and Rats abound, it will preſently kill them, which hath often times been proved.

To the Weſt of *Burray*, is the Ocean, to the North-weſt *Guildirumple* in *Sandſting* Pariſh, with the Interjection of the Mouth of a wide Firth, of ſeven or eight Miles breadth, which runs in the length of *Weſdale* Eaſt North Eaſt, as many Miles as it is broad, and divides it ſelf into many Branches or *Voes*.

To the North-weſt of *Burray*, in the foreſaid Firth, towards *Sandſting* and *Weſdale* Pariſhes, are ſixteen or ſeventeen ſmall Iſlands all covered with Graſs, ſave one called *Linga* covered with Heather, whereof three only are inhabited, to wit *Oxney* Weſtward in the Ocean, *Hildisboy* a little Eaſtward of it, in the Bay; and *Papa-*

little, Southward of both: theſe three Iſles are ſomewhat ſtored with Conies, but of all theſe three only *Papa little* belongeth to the Pariſh of *Burray*, and is diſtant from it, about half a Mile of Sea; in length lying South-South Eaſt, and North-North-Weſt is a long Mile, the Breadth of it is not conſiderable.

This Iſland affords good Graſs for the fatning of Sheep, and cloſe by it, betwixt it and *Burray*, is the Weſt way, that leads to the Road of *Scallowey*, always keeping the Caſtle in ſight. To the North of *Burray*, lyes *Tronrey* belonging to the Pariſh of *Tingwall* of two Mile length, with the Interjection of a ſmall Sound called *Stream ſound*, where is ſome Tydegate running *Eaſt* to *Clift-ſound* and Weſt to *Burray-ſound*, not a quarter of a Mile in length, very narrow in Breadth, at the *Eaſt* end whereof, is a ſmall Green Holm, and a little, to the South-South Weſt of it there is a Skerrie, betwixt both at high Water it will be three Fathom deep: Here once a Ship paſſed through, whoſe Skippers Name was *Earl*, but keeping too Northerly, when he entered *Clift-ſound* Eaſtward, the Ship ſunk upon a blind Rock, to this day called *Earls* Bae.

To the due *Eaſt* of this *Stream-ſound*, & over *Clift-ſound*, lyes *Quarfdale* (almoſt in the midleſt the *Clift-hills* on the Continent) belonging alſo to the Pariſh of *Burray*, in length (lying due *Eaſt* and Weſt) it is a juſt mile from Sea to Sea, that is, from the Ocean on the *Eaſt*, and *Clift-ſound* on the Weſt, where is the narroweſt place of the whole Continent or Main-land of *Zetland*; it hath on the South *Sandwick* Pariſh, and on the North *Tingwall* Pariſh.

Here, in *Eaſter-Quarf*. is a Chapell, how called or by whom it was built, is not known, only the Foundation with ſome Rubbiſh remains at this day.

In *Anno* 1652 in *Auguſt*, the *Hollands* Navy by a tempeſt of Weather, were driven into the Weſt ſide of *Burray*, where a fire Ship was wracked, and a little Southward of *Burray*, a man of War or two ſunk to the Bottome, the reſt of the Fleet upon Life and Death hazarded and Ventured in amongſt the ſmall Iſles, to the North of *Burray*, and Anchored there, and rode ſafely.

Burray and *Breſſay* are under one Miniſterie, and lye diſtant the one from the other near ſeven Miles South-weſt and be Weſt, and North-Eaſt, and be Eaſt.

The Deſcription of Iſland of *BRESSAY*.

Chapter fourth

THis Iſland lyeth South and North in length, and Eaſt and Weſt in Breadth, the length of it is ſix Miles, which beginneth at the *Bard* South-ward, and endeth at *Beoaſter* Northward, the breadth of it is two Miles, which beginneth at *Neſs-Sound* Eaſtward, and endeth at *Breſſay Sound* Weſt-ward; it is every where encompaſsed with the Sea, having to the Weſt *Tingwall* Pariſh (being a part of the Main-land, with the Interjection of the Sound) to the South-weſt *Cumingbrough* with the Interjection of a Firth, of five

or

or ſix Miles breadth; which is at the South entrie of *Breſſay-ſound*, to the South and South-East the Ocean; to the East the Iſland of *Noſſe*, with the Interjection of a ſmall ſound; to the North East the Ocean; to the North *Whalſey*, with the Interjection of a broad Firth of 12 Miles; to the North-North-weſt, *Neſting* with the Interjection of a Firth of four or five Miles, in which are ſeverall blind Rocks and Shoals, but eaſiely diſcerned in regard of the *Brake* that is conſtantly on them, through the Seas motion. Here, within a Mile and a half to *Breſſay*, is an Holm, called the *Green-Holm*, and about three quarters of a Mile to the South-weſt of it, there is an other Holm called the Holm of *Beoſter*, near to the Shore of *Breſſay*, benorth the which, ſome ſpace, there are two (eaſily diſcerned) Rocks, called the *Brethren*, between them once a Ship was loſt.

This Iſland is Mountanous and covered with Heather (except Corn Land, that lyeth on its Border, cloſe by the Shore) and is good for Paſturage, the Beſtial are not ſo plentious here, as in many other places of the Countrie. It hath in it two Promontories or high Hills, the one Named *Andrew's-Hill*, at the Eaſt ſide, by *Cullinſburgh*, the other the *Wart-Hill* (which is higheſt at the South-end by *Kirkabuſter*) both well warted for the benefite of Seafaring men. It hath in it two Churches, the one in the North end, at *Gunielſtay* named *St. Olla's* Church: the other in the Eaſt ſide at *Cullinſburgh*, named St. *Marie's* Church, where the Miniſter hath his Manſe: alſo there is a Chapel in the South South weſt ſide at *Kirkabuſter*, Named St. *John's*, but now Ruinous; when or by whom they were built is not known, only the two foreſaid Churches (where Ordinances are now ſerved) were a little inlarged by the late Miniſter.

It hath in it five Ancient Picts Houſes, one at *Brough*, one at *Liraneſs*, one at *Beoaſter*, one at *Culbinſburgh*, and one at *Noſſe ſound*.

It hath in it eight Loughs, of no conſiderable length or Breadth, to wit, the Lough of *Grein-ſitter*, the Lough of *Brough*, the Lough of *Seateer*, the Lough of *Aith*, the Lough of *Gunielſtay*, two Loughs of *Beoſter*, and the Lough of *Kellabuſter*, all which have ſmall Brooks running from them, and are ſomewhat ſtored, with Common Trouts and Eels.

Here, within ſight of *Breſſay ſound*, on the Weſt ſide of the Iſle, there is a ſtanding ſtone, ten foot of hight, three foot of Breadth and ſeven inches thick, juſt as you are in the midle of the Mouth of *Breſſay Sound*, it ſtands to you, due North-North-eaſt.

Here are two excellent Bayes or Roads, the one is named *Aiths-Voe*, at the North end of the Iſle, which opens North-Weſtward, and runs up South-Eaſtward, a Mile in length, and a quarter in Breadth, good clean Anchor ground, of Six, Eight or ten Fathom deep at high water, in the Mouth whereof lyes a round ſmall Holm, called the Holm of *Gunielſtay*: the entrie to this Bay or Road, is beſt on the Eaſt ſide, betwixt this Holm and *Aithsneſs*, for on the Weſt ſide towards *Gunielſtay* and *Beoaſter* are very dangerous Shoals and blind Rocks, at the head of this Bay or Road in old time, *Engliſhmen* had a Booth where they made fiſh and exported.

The other Bay or Road is called *Bressay Sound*, which lyeth at the West side of the Isle, dividing it from the *Main-land*; the most famous Road in all *Zetland*; in length is near four Miles; in Breadth, in some places a Mile, in some places half a Mile, and in some places not a quarter. The South mouth of this Sound opens South west, the midle of it lyes neareſt South-east and North-west: and the North mouth of it opens North-North-East: excellent Anchor ground, where Ships may safely ride all Weathers, in some places twelve Fathom, in some places eighteen Fathom, and in some places twentie Fathom deep at high water. There is no hazard in all this Bay or Sound, save only one blind Rock called *Loofaber*, that lyeth in the middle of it, benorth the Town of *Lerwick*, to the South-West of a little Holm, called the *Holm* of *Cruister*; and therefore when any Ships are going to or comming from the North, they must hold close to the West shore against the foresaid blind Rock and Holm; likewise, it is to be remembred, in the Northmost end of this Sound, overgainst *Haugon*, in high water there are but sixteen or seventeen foot Water, so that Ships of great Burden cannot go out North.

Here in old time (in years of peace betwixt *Britain* and *Holland*) there have been seen 12 or 15 hundred Sail of *Hollanders* Fishers, who did great good to this poor place, but now there come not above 2 or 3 hundred sail.

Here in *Anno* 1640, in the Summer time, ten *Spanish* Men of War (under name of *Dunkirkers*) surprised four *Hollands* Men of Warr, waiting for the *East Indian* Fleet, two whereof were sunk, at the West Shore of the Sound, one fled hence about eight or ten Miles North-westward, where running on Shore, her own Captain caused blow her up, and the 4*th* was taken and carried.

Here in *Anno* 1653, in *May*, lay some days the *English* Fleet consisting of 94 Men of War, *Deans* and *Monk* were Admiralls.

Here also in *Anno* 1665, in *August*, lay some days the *English* Fleet consisting of 92 Men of Warr, the Earl of *Sandwich* was *Admiral*. It is in all *Zetland* the Road most frequented.

The Description of the *ISLE* of *NOSS*.

Chapter fifth.

THis Island lyeth South-east and by East, and North-west and by West in length; and South-west and by South, and North East and by North in breadth. The length of it is two Miles, which beginneth at *Nesse-head* South-eastward, and endeth at the *Sound-side* North westward: and the breadth of it is about three quarters of a Mile, which beginneth at the Sea Southwest-ward, and endeth at the Sea North east-ward.

This is a pleasant Island, for the most part covered with Grass, and stored with Bestial, and there is considerable Corn Land in it for so much bounds. Here is a little Church or Chapel, at the *Sound-side* built as it is reported by Shipwrakt Persons, the time when and the Name of it is not known. At the South-East end of this

Island

Island, there is a high Promontorie called *Nosse-head*, the top whereof hangeth outwards to the Sea, and therefore by the *Hollanders* named *Hang-clip*, in the face whereof builds and Nests the best Falcon in the North except that of the *Fair-Isle*.

From this head South-westward, not half a quarter of a Mile, there is a Holm fiftie Fathom high from the Water, and sixteen Fathom over betwixt and the Island, which no man ever could climb but one, having fixed some stakes on the brink thereof, opposit to the Island, in comming down he broke his Neck: and on the Island side opposit, there are so many stakes fixed, upon which there is a Rope, with a small Ark (called the Cradle) fast teased, wherein one Man at once goes in and comes out of the Holm. Truely it is such a rare conceit, that it cannot well be expressed by Words, without much Circumloquution. This Island is well served, with all sort of Sea Fowls, and hath on the West, *Bressay*, with the interjection of a small Sound called *Nosse sound*, running from South to North, a Short & a Narrow, a shallow and a dangerous Sound, currented with Tyd-gate, not above eight-foot deep at high water, and on all other parts it hath the Ocean. Here is no Anchoring, but in great Necessitie, either besouth or benorth the Islands, betwixt it and *Bressay*.

The Description of the Parish of *WAES* in *YETLAND*

Chapter sixth.

THe united Churches of *Walls* in the *Mainland*, are *Walls* and *Sandis* Islands, *Papa* and *Fala*, *Walls* being the Westmost Parish in the Island of *Yetland*: the Church of the same is called St. *Pauls* Church. There is an Island *Wallave*, lying South west from the said Church, and a Sound betwixt them very commodious for Ships: there are two Entries to the Harbour, the one from the South, entring North, where is to be observed, that those intending for *Walleys-sound*, they must steer to the West of a Rock which will be visible to them, and no hazard but what is seen, the water being deep enough for any Merchant Ship, and the Port secure for Shipping, either Summer or Winter. The Products of the said Port being Herring, which are ordinarly taken in the Moneths of *June*, *July* and *August*; also Codlings, Lings, through the whole year. The other is called the *Wester-sound*, entring the same Port which entereth from Southwest to North-east, but is not to be entered without a Pilot.

There are several Lochs in the Mountanous places, almost Barren, except some Gray coloured Trouts.

The Island of *Fula* lyeth twentie Miles distant from the Western sound of *Walsye* west, where there is no Harbour, Road nor Anchor ground for Shipping in Summer, and much less in Winter, being surrounded with the Rageing Seas. The Island is exceeding high Mountanous and Rocky, and there is little Arable ground in the same, but not profitable for Pasturage, the Manured little, but yet fruitfull, the product of the place is Stockfish and Feathers.

Sand-ness lyeth North from *Waels* six Miles, where there is no Harbour for Ships, but the Ground is fertile of Bear and Oats. Betwixt *Sand-ness* and *Papa* is a Sound of a Mile in Breadth, entering North East from the Ocean, having a Reif of Rocks on every side, with two little Isles, the mid Chanell is to be keep'd, where there is no hazard, the water being sufficiently deep, but no Passage for Ships betwixt either of the Isles and the Shore.

Hamna-voe in *Papa* enters from the Sea, on the South side of the Island, and goes North east, dangerous to pursue without a Pilot, there being several turnings and Shoals a little after the entrie, but the Harbour it self is secure for Shipping, Summer and Winter. *Houss-voe* on the North side of the Island, entering South-west, a Summer Harbour: Another Harbour, called *Culle-voe* half a Mile Wester from that Port, entering due South without hazard, keeping the mid Chanel, a secure Harbour for Ships both Summer and Winter.

The Products of these Harbours are the same with *Walleys sound*, the Commons of both places being Fishers by Occupation.

There are certain Rocks lying West from the said Island of *Papa* which are visible to Sailers, six Miles, which are commonly called the West Skerries, to which no Ship can approach within a *Mile*, without hazard, by reason of the Impetuous Current and Tides at that place.

The Description of *DALETING*.

Chapter seventh.

Daleting is so called, because it is a *dale* with a *Tang* or *Ness*.

This Platt of ground, lyeth South and North in Length, and East and West in breadth. The length of it eight Miles, which beginneth at *Mara field* South-ward, and endeth at *Yell-sound* side North-ward: the breadth of it is about five Miles, which beginneth at *Colla-Firth*, and endeth at *Culsitter* West-ward.

This Plat of ground is very *Mountanous* and bad for travelling, and is covered with Heather and Moss: here in old time there was but one Parish Church, North-westward at *Scatstage*, called St. *Pauls* Church, somewhat excentrick for the People, wherefore it was deserted, and is now become altogether Ruinous, but the Inhabitants here (for their better accommodation in Gospel Ordinances) afterwards erected and built two Churches, one at *Olna* Firth in the South end called St. *Ollas* Church, and the other in the North end of *Daleting*, called St. *Magnus*'s Church: both these Churches of late were rebuilt and inlarged by the present Minister thereof, who constantly visits them *per vices*, as is commonly observed through the whole Countrie, these churches are five or six Miles distant the one from the other.

Here are good store of Sheep, many whereof are Scarr or wild.

Here are three Ancient Picts Houses, (now ruined) called by the Native Inhabitants *Burroughs*; one at *Burro-ness*, North-ward,

at

at *Tell-sound* side: another at *Burro voe*, Southward at *Waderstay*: and the third a little Holm Westward in the mouth of *Meikleroo sound* at *Boostaye*.

Here are many sterile Pools, in regard they are filled with Peat-water: it hath on the South, *Tingwall* and *Weisdale*, with the Interjection of the long Hill eight or ten Miles in length: on the South-west *Aithsting* or *Twat*: on the North-west to North, *Northmaven*, with the interjection of a sound, of one or two Miles breadth: on the North, and North and by East *Tell*, with the Interjection of the Sound called *Tell sound*, of Miles breadth, where is a strong current of Tyd-gate, so that a Ship under sail, cannot without difficulty and danger go against the stream: on the North-East the Ocean, and on the South-East *Nesting*, with the Interjection of six or seven Miles of Mountanous way.

Here on this side of *Tell sound*, are severall small Isles, belonging to *Daleting*, the Northmost is called Little *Rooe* about a Mile in circuit; and about a Mile from thence North-East, lyes *Brother-Isle*, about a Mile and a half in compass: from thence North-east lyeth *Onerie*: from thence South-East lyeth *Bigga*, two Miles in compass, where is a ruined Chapell, built (as is reported) by Shipwrackt Men, but how called it is not known: from thence South east, lyes St. *Frie*, about a Mile and a half in compass: from thence South, lyeth *Fish-Holm*, about a Mile in compass. From thence West lyes *Linga*, about a Mile and a half in compass.

South-ward of which lyes a little Holm called *Wather-Holm*, all Inhabited (save *Onerie*, *Linga*, and *Wather Holm*) and manured, but the Corns thereof are subject to be blasted; all of them are covered with grass, and are good for pasture.

Here are severall Bayes called by the Inhabitants *Voes*, very commodious for Ships: on the North-east, lyeth *Colla-firth-Voe*, which goeth up South and by West, a Mile within Land, of Fathoms deep: from hence North-west and by west two Miles, lyes *Dales-voe*, which goes up South-west a Mile and a half, of Fathoms deep in flood: in high Winds, it is dangerous to pursue either, in regard of the Whirl-winds, that come from the steep Mountains on either side of them. From thence North a little, lyes *Swinister-voe*, which goes up half a mile within Land, of Fathoms deep. From thence Northward, about a Mile, lyes *Firths voe*, which goes up half a Mile, of Fathoms deep. From thence Northward, lyes *Grunavoe* which goes up South, about half a Mile within Land, of Fathoms deep. From thence Westward, lyes *Urka-voe*, which goes up south, a Mile within land, of Fathoms deep. From thence two Miles, lyes *Lax-voe* which goes up South-east, a Mile within Land, of Fathoms deep. From thence South-ward, two Miles, lyes *Hard-wellvoe*, which goes up South-east, half a Mile within land, of Fathoms deep: and also *Scattstayes-voe* and *Brea*, running up Southerlye a large way within Land; all excellent Harbours for Ships, where the ground is clean & somewhat deep; for at *Brea*, the *Hamburger* or *Bremer* Merchants use to lye with their Ships yearly in the Summer time for making of Fish: About half a Mile from thence South-ward, lyeth a Large Iland called *Meikle-*

Rooe, about fourteen Miles in compass, in it are twentie four steril Pools: this Isle is good for Pasture & useth to have many Sheep upon it: here in this Isle on the West side of it lyes a good Harbour called *Hams* of *Rooe*, so strongly fortified & fenced by Nature, that no Wind or storm can wrong any Ship that lyeth in it. On South-south west of this Island, there is a Firth or an Arm of Sea, the mouth and entrie whereof is called *Swarbackmeen*, which goeth up six Miles within land, wherein are six Harbours or Bayes going up Eastward, to wit *Gon-firth-voe*, *Ollna-firth-voe*, *Weatherstaye-voe*, *Burro voe* &c there is a division by a small parcell of ground, betwixt the Seas of the North Parish and the West Sea.

Daleting is in Form like a *Trapeza*.

The Description of of *TELLISLAND*.

Chapter eighth.

THe learned Mr. *Robert Maule*, in his Latine *MS.* concerning our Antiquities, thinks that this Isle *Yell*, or *Zeal* as some call it, gave the Name to the People who first Inhabited *Zetland*, and to their Language also: from this Isle all the Inhabitants of these Isles in their Countrey Language call themselves *Yalts*, which in our Language also signifies a *Shetlander*, and their Language by themselves is called *Yaltmol*, and he thinks this was the *Thule* of the Ancients, & was of all the *Shetland* Isles the first Inhabited, because of its nearness to *Norway* from whence the first Inhabitants of these Isles came & tho he acknowledgeth that the Isle of *Unst* lyeth benorth it, and is a more pleasant Isle too, yet because *Unst* is encompassed with a most tempestuous Sea, and only even in our time, at certain times can become at without great hazard, therefore he makes *Yell* the *Thule*, which is more frequented by Merchants, and has a *Bremer* who has his abode therin, and Trades with the Inhabitants, Importing what is necessarie for them, which, after the Ancient way, he Barters with them for the Products of the Island: But now in our time *Unst* is more frequented, and is better known: the Isle of *Yell* is ten Miles distant from the Main-land of *Zetland* towards the North of it: it is twentie Miles in length and eight in Breadth as he tells us, others make it to be in length eighteen Miles, and Nine in Breadth.

Some make it but six Miles distant from the Main-land: it hath three Churches in it, in which there is Sermon, each near eight Miles distant from other, the Isles of *Samfrey*, half the Island of *Bigga*, together with the Isle of *Hascosea*, all Inhabited, belong to it, yea the Isle of *Fetlar* was, at the Reformation and long after, a part of this Ministerie, which had then but one Minister, though now two, and there are about twentie Chapells in it, and it makes a Bailliewick.

One of the Churches is named *Refurd* Church, which lyeth in the Southmost part of the Isle.

The Chief Harbours in this Isle are by South, *Burra-voe*, *Hamna-*

voe, *Bastavoe* and *Refnis*: and by North are *Culve-voe*, *Hamna-voe* entereth from the East and runneth through *Tell* Sound.

Northwest from *Hamna-voe* is an Harbour called *Southladie*, and an other called *Gravelland*, the entrie from the South-west, esteemed a good Harbour.

Burra-voe hath its entrie from the West.

Rae-Firth-voe hath its entrie from the East.

Sylla-firth-voe in the midle of the Isle hath its Entrie from the East.

Culye-voe hath its entrie also from the East. In the Northmost part of the Island *Gloup-voe* hath its entry from the North.

Tell lies North-East and by East from the Main: it is more Mossie than the other Isles, tho there is in it some good Pasturage and Corn Land, to the East of it lyes *Hastosea*, two Miles long; and to the South west *Samphra* one Mile long, to the West South-west *Bigga*, a Mile and a half long, all pleasant and well Grassed, and has much Fewel: all of them fit for Fishing.

Fetlar lyeth South east from the Isle of *Yell*, it hath a Promontorie in it called *Standbrugh Ness*: it is a Baillierie: it runs East by South, and West by North: it has no Harbour for Ships, but Creeks for small Boats, there is one Church in it for Sermons, and it hath ten or eleven Chapells.

The Description of *NORTMAVEN* Parish

Chapter ninth.

NOrthmaven is the Northmost part of the Main land of *Zetland*, bounded on the South-South-West, with St *Magnus* Bay on the West and North with the Ocean: on the North-East with a part of *Yell-sound*: on the East and South with *Daleting*, from which it is divided by a Narrow piece of ground, called *Mavis grind*, where the land is so narrow, that a man may cast a stone over from the one Sea to the other, beside which there is an Harbour called *Manga seter-voe*, entering at the South-west: about five Miles from this, are three Harbours, all three opening to the South-West; the first called *Gundasetter-voe*, a good Harbour, but a bad entrie to unknowing Sailers, by reason of some hidden Rocks, that lye in the mouth thereof: the other *Hamelf-voe*, a Secure Harbour, and a good entrie: the Northmost is a Summer Harbour, called *Helswick-voe*, where an *Hamburgh* Ship lyeth for transporting the commodities of the Country, beside which there is a Church for Sermon called St. *Ollas* Church. West and North-west from this, there is a little Island called the Isle of *Stennes*, beside which *Scots* Ships were used of old to lye for taking of Fishes. North-East from *Stennes* lyeth *Hamna-voe*, opening at North North-west, a bad entry to Stranger-Seamen, by reason of some hid Rocks, which lye in each side of the entrie. In the midle of the said Parish lyes an high and large Mountain called *Ronise-hill*, otherwise *Blaabarg*, twenty Miles in Circuit, upon which are twentie small Lakes, or

rather large Pools of Water, out of which runneth a bourn or rivulet which breedeth ſtore of ſpeckled Trouts. South to the ſaid Hill, at the foot thereof, the Sea runneth up into the Land full four Miles, which is called *Ronis voe*, and could Harbour many Ships, were it free from the Flams of Wind, which come from the Mountain: to the North of *Roniſe-hill*, lyeth *North-Rue*, where are two ſummer Harbours, the one called *Sand-voe*, opening at the North North weſt, the other called *Burra-voe*, entering to the North. There is another Church alſo in the ſaid Pariſh, called St. *Magnus* Church; the Air is wholſome, but the Soil naturally Barren, bearing but little Corne, the want whereof is ſupplied from *Orkney* and *Scotland*: this place of the Country breeds good *Falcons*, and ſtore of other Fowls.

There is a ſmall Iſle on the Weſt ſide of this Pariſh, called the Iſle of *Niben*, which feedeth good Sheep, and breeds ſuch ſtore of Fowls, as you may gather in the ſummer time Loads of Eggs, and yet leave enough behind for the Fowls to Hatch.

There are many Eagls and Ravens here, but no Venemous Beaſt nor a *Frog* to be found in this Pariſh. The principal Commodities are oyl, Butter, Herring, Wool, White Fiſh, Hides, and Courſe Stockings.

The Inhabitants are Hoſpitable, ſubtile, given to flatterie. Their ordinary *Drink* is *Blend*, which is made of the Milk that remains of Churned Butter, being clarified and Barrelled up for Winter.

There are no Antient Monuments here, except ſome old Ruinous Houſes, built of dry ſtone, called *Picts houſes* or *Broughs*, and ſome old *Ruinous* Chapells, built as is ſuppoſed by Ship-broken Merchants in the days of ſuperſtition, of which there is one called the *Croſs-kirk*, where the ſuperſtitious Commons of old uſed to frequent in the ſilence of the night, each carrying their Candles with them, and then feaſted and ſported until day, but this ſuperſtitious Cuſtome is now baniſhed.

The Deſcription of the Iſland of UNST.

Chapter tenth.

UNST is the Northmoſt Iſland of *Zetland*, lying on the ſixtie one degree of Latitude: from the South part to the North, which is the length of it, it is eight Miles, and the broadeſt part of it will not exceed four Miles. The chief Harbour is called *Uyea ſound*, an excellent large Harbour, not much inferiour to *Breſſay ſound*, it flowes South South Eaſt, 20 nine Fathoms deep, and very good Anchor ground at the Bottom. This Harbour has three entries, one lyes toward the Eaſt called *Skuda-ſound*, having two Holms to the South, the one is *Grunzie*, the other *Haather-Holm*, good for Paſturing of Sheep and other Beſtial: the ſecond entrie lies toward the South, called *Cul-gtave ſound*: and the third lies toward the Weſt, called *Blunda ſound*, in which there runs more than an Ordinarie Current, North and South, and it flowes an hour ſooner

than at the *Uzea-ſound*, though it be ſcarce two Miles diſtant from it. Upon the South-Eaſt part, there lyes an excellent little Iſle called *Uzea*, fertile in Corn and Beſtial, which is divided from *Unſt* by *Uzea-ſound* and 'tis thought this Iſle gives Name to *Uzea-ſound*.

Upon the eaſt part of *Unſt*, there is a little Caſtle called *Mowneſs*, built by *Laurence Bruce* ſometime of *Cultimalindie*, having a little Creek contiguous to it call'd the *Hamne* of *Mowneſs*, having its entrie toward the North-eaſt, in which Boats may ly ſafe, but it is not an Harbour for Ships.

In the middle part of this Iſle of *Unſt*, there is another excellent Harbour called *Balta-ſound*, which takes its Name from a little Iſland called *Balta*, on the Eaſt, conſiſting of a Mile in length, and near a quarter of a Mile in breadth, notable good, for grazing of Oxen, Kine, Sheep, and other Beſtial, and very well ſtored with Rabbets, but there grows no Corn in it: there is an old Chapell here, called St. *Sineva*'s Chapell. This *Balta-ſound* is an excellent ſafe Harbour, about eight Fathoms deep, and good Anchor ground; in length a Mile, and in Breadth half a Mile, it hath two entries, one to the South, of a conſiderable Breadth and deepneſs, ſo that any firſt Rate Ship can come in; another towards the North, Narrow, Shallow, Rocky, only for ſmall Ships: Upon the South part of *Balta Sound* there lyes a ſmall Iſle called *Huny*, good for Paſture, but not for Corns: in time of Lent, the Inhabitants find abundance of Shell Fiſhes, ſuch as they call Cullzeoks, Smirlings, Cockles, Spouts and Muſcells in this Harbour.

North-ward from this, the ſpace of a Mile, there is a large Bay called *Harald's-week-Bay* the entrie of which lyes, Eaſt-South-eaſt full of Hidden Rocks, in no wayes good for Ships.

Upon the North ſide, there is an old Chapell called the *Croſs-Kirk*, and he that will ſail to the *Croſs-kirk*, will undoubtedly meet with a great one: at the head of this Bay, there is abundance of Spout Fiſh, in time of Lent: and towards the South-weſt, there lyes a high, Hill called *Harald's-hill*, or the Hill of *Harald's week*, full of Rocks and great Stones.

To the North of this, almoſt another Mile, lys the Bay of *Norweek*, the entrie of this lyes to the North-eaſt, of a great deepneſs, but not ſafe for Ships to Harbour in, by reaſon of its narrowneſs, having many blind Rocks in it, and in foul weather an extraordinary great Sea leads it. Upon the North part of the entrie of this Bay, called the *Skae* of *Unſt*, there is a great Current, that runneth North-eaſt, and South-eaſt; much reſembling that of *Soumbroch* head, having a little green Holm, to the North, called the Holm of *Skae*: upon the ſouth ſide of this Bay ſtands an old Chapell, called St. *Johns* Chapel, but commonly the Kirk of *Norweek*, and upon the North ſide of it, there is a great high Hill, called *Saxa-vord*, having on the top a great hole downward, of an extraordinary deepneſs, which the old Inhabitants call *Saxiesdoor*, in which (ſay they,) the *Giant Saxie* lived of old; and a little from this to the North-eaſt, there is a great Hollow Rock, which they call *Saxies Bottle*, having a Hole in the Bottom, through which the

Sea enters, that all the Tinkers in this Country cannot help, which Bottle will contain more Beef and Mutton (if well packed) at one time, than *Unſt* is able to ſpend in a twelve Month.

Three Miles Weſtward from this, there is yet a Bay, called *Burra-Firth*, the entry of which is very deep and ſandie ground, but towards the Shore is very Shallow: upon the Weſt ſide of the Bay there lye ſeveral Rocks, or Skerries, which Selches frequent in the Moneth of *November*, and the Inhabitants neglect not to wait upon them to kill them, the Skins they ſell, but the Bulks they ſalt, and in time of Lent, they eat them as ſweetly as Veniſon. At the head of this Bay, Southward, there lys a great Loch of three Miles in length, but not half a Mile in Breadth, in which there is abundance of ſmall Trouts, Eels and Flouks.

There is a little Holm in the midſt of this Loch, having a *Skeo* in it, in which the Owners uſe to dry their ſtock fiſh and *Vivida*, *i. e.* fleſh dryed without being ſalted.

Upon the Weſt ſide of *Unſt*, there is no Harbour at all, but great Rocks, and a Roaring Ocean: there is a great Hill upon this Weſt ſide called *Valla field*, about two Miles in length, upon which there growes nothing but Heather: at the foot of this there is a little Bay called the Bay of *Week*, with an Entrie to the North, in which the fiſhing Boats uſe to land, but it is not for Ships: and North-weſt from it about a ſhort Mile, there ſtands a high Rock call'd the *Vaer*.

Unſt hath three Pariſh Churches, one in the South part, call'd *Week*; another in the midle of it called *Balliſtay*; and a third in the North part, called *Haralds-week*, and but one Miniſter, who ſubjoins a Complaint, that the Vicars of *Unſt*, have never payed the Miniſters, their ſtipends, either compleatly or pleaſantly, and with all they have ſtoln away from the Church 300 *Merks per Annum* conform to the Act of Parliament, which *in fine* will prove like the Eagls Neſt that was once ſet on fire with a Coal that ſticked to the fleſh which was ſtoln from the Altar.

The Chief product of this Iſland, is Butter, Fiſh, Oil and Hides, the Corn is ſo little that it cannot maintain the Inhabitants above four or five Moneths, at moſt; the Chief of the Fiſh is Ling, Killing, and Tuſk *&c.* their Beſtial is Kine and Oxen and but few Sheep; they have abundance of little Horſes that paſture in the Hills both Summer and Winter without being ſtabled at all: the Inhabitants uſe to fiſh in ſmall Boats, being four or ſix Men in them the piece, and they ſell their fiſhes, to the *Bremer* or *Hamburgh* Merchants that uſe to Traffick here: the Inhabitants generally are Irreligious and much given to Venerie, and to Tobacco, and they have a drink made of Milk and Water, which they call *Bland* which in the Winter time growes ſour as Vinegar: and they have a Language which they call *Norn*, that differs from the *Daniſh*: the Goverment of the Iſle is by Bailzies.

In the Iſle of *Qualſay* there is a little Hill, on the top of which, if you ſet a Compaſs, the Needle will ſtand contrary, the South point looking to the North, and being removed but two foot from that place it ſtands right: and in the Iſle of *Fetlar*, at *Odſta* is a Chapel

pell, where if you place a Compass, the Needle will still run round without resting.

Concerning the *Natural Advantages* of *Shetland*, for the Inhabitants, and their Usefulness to the Crown of *GREAT-BRITAIN*.

Chapter eleventh.

ALbeit these Isles of *Shetland* lye far North from the Continent of *GREAT-BRITAIN*, in the Main Ocean; and can have little Commerce in the Winter time with it, yet, Nature (by their Situation in the North Passage to the Countries upon the *Baltick* Sea, and to both the *Indies*, and by the convenience of their Bays and Sounds, and by the Qualitie of the Country which disposeth all the Inhabitants to Trade, and to Fishing) has been very kind to them: they are very usefull to the Crown of *Britain*, and give great Advantages to it, if they were improved, as they may be in the time of Peace for the securitie and relief of the Fleets which pass that way. I shall give some Account of the Advantages Nature has given to the Inhabitants there, which are not a few.

The many Winds there Purifie the Air much, so that they usually live to a great Age, in much health, except the small Pox, which sometimes rageth there: they are not infested with contagious or Pestilential Diseases: the Scurvie is the Disease they are most troubled with, for Remedie of which they abound with such Plants, as cure it, every where; *Viz.* the *Scurvie-Grass*, *Sorrell*, the *Cresses*, and *Water-purpis* or *Beca-bunga*, the *Sedum Vermiculare*, *Chamæmorus*. And the Heather serves not only as a Medicine to them, but also with the Tops of it they season their Ale, which gives it a Briskness, and makes it keep: and besides they have most of the Herbs which grow in the Neighbouring Islands of *Orkney* and *Feroe*. They have abundance of Kine & Sheep, and many Shalties, *i.e.* Horses of a small Size, but durable and Active: and the Rocks afford them all sorts of Sea Fowls, and they have many fresh water Fowls, such as are narrated in the Description of the Firth of *Forth*, and others of which there is an account in the *Prodromus*: they have also *D*omestick Fowls, whereof they have plentie.

They have not much Corn, but for that want, it is supplied by their Trade with their Product.

The Inhabitants of these Isles have most benefit by their fishing, which yet in some years is greater than in others, and they have not only all the Fishes which frequent the *Baltick* Sea, but also these found in more remote Seas, by tempests of Wind, and the impetuous Motion of the Seas, are caught about these Isles: and Tortoises and such as frequent the *Atlantick*, are sometimes cast in alive upon their shore, and sometimes Tritons and Mermaids are seen about these Isles. But their greatest profit is from the Herring

Fishing, alongst their Coast, especially in the Moneths of *July* and *August*: the *Hollanders* yearly with great Fleets of Busses repare there in *June*, they begin upon the Coast of the Island of *Unst*, and go along the East side of *Shetland* to *Orkney*, and from thence over *Murray Firth*, towards *Yarmouth* upon the Coast of *England*, continuing to Fish, from the Summer *Solstice* to the first of *December*, and at the same time Employ several Hundreds of Doggers, for taking of White Fish: for beside vast quantities of Herring taken in *Shetland*, many Ships Loading of Cod and Ling are taken there, and beside them they take many Tusk, (a rare wholsome and delicious Fish) from the end of *May*, at the East of the isle of *Bressay* and *Whalsey*, and of *Dunroseness*: the Natives themselves make use, for their fishing, of small Boats, which they call Yalls, about the bigness of *Gravesend Oars*, and they take their Ling and their Cod with Hooks and Lines, they take also Seeths (of the Livers of which they make Oyl) and other small fish with Angles, sitting on the Rocks, and in their small Boats with Hooks and Lines in the Sounds, and between the Isles, which small fish are considerable: what they eat not presently, the rest of them they preserve in their *Skeos*.

With their small fishing Boats or Yalls Rowing them with two Men, and sometimes four according to the Largeness of the Boat, they go to the Main, about two or three Leagues more or *Less*, where the Banks are, and there they lay their Hooks and Lines for Ling and Cod, and usually every Morning (that they go to Sea) they take about fiftie or sixtie Ling and Cod: if they had better Boats and tackling, they might take a great many more fish of all sorts: and if Magazins and Work Houses were set up, provided with all necessaries, it would much inrich the Inhabitants, and add much also to the Revenue of the Crown.

They take also Turbet, Mackrell, Congers, and Skate, Sword-fish, and Sturgeon sometimes, and many Sorts of Shell fish, as Oysters, Muscels, Spoutfish, Cockles, the Sea *Locusts*, and Lobsters and Crabs.

The Land in all these Isles aboundeth with Conies, and the Rocks with Otters, and Selches, the Skins of which furnish them with a matter of Trade.

Of the first Inhabitants of these Isles, that they are the *Thule* mention'd by *Tacitus*, and how they came to belong to the Crown of *Scotland*.

Chapter twelvth.

THe first Inhabitants of these Isles were a Colonie of the *Goths*, who from the Baltick, and from *Norroway*, first came to settle there, and afterwards from the marking of their Bodies with Various figures, were called *Picts*: that these Isles were in their Possession, appears from *Claudian*, in these Verses *of his de 3 consulatu Honorii, Carm: 7.*

Facta

Facta tui numerabat Avi, quem littus adusta
Horrescit Lybiæ, *ratibusque impervia* Thule:
Ille leves Mauros, *nec falso nomine* Pictos
Edomuit.

By which as the *Mores* were the Inhabitants of *Lybia*, so he makes the *Picts* the Possessors of *Thule*. and the same *Claudian*, IV *Consul. Honorii*, *Carmen*: 8, tells us.

Incahuit Pictorum *sanguine* Thule.

Which confirms that the *Picts* were Inhabitants there. Beside, *Conradus Celtes*, in his *iter Balticum*, points at *Shetland* to be the *Thule*, more directly thus,

Cogor ad Arctoum pergere forte Sinum
Orcadibus *qua cincta suis* Thule,

This is the *Thule* mentioned by *Tacitus*, *Vita Agricolæ* Cap. 10. treating of *Caledonia*, *Hanc oram novissimi Maris, tunc primum* Romana *Classis circumvecta Insulam esse* Britanniam *adfirmavit, ac simul incognitas ad id tempus Insulas, quas* Orcadas *vocant, invenit domuitque, dispecta est et* Thule. which can be applyed to no Isle, so well as to *Shetland*, which *Mela* placeth, *Bergarum littori oppositæ*, which is the true Situation of it, since *Norway* proves to be the *Nerigon* of *Pliny*, in which *Berga* is over against the Northmost parts of *Shetland*, the *Norse* Language yet in use with the Inhabitants of *Shetland*, and the many *Broughs* or *Picts-houses* there, put this out of all Question: so these Isles came with the rest of the Picts Country to be under the Crown of *Scotland*; in after times the *Norvegian Pirats* seased them, from whom they were afterward recovered, and upon the Marriage of King *James* the third, were given up with *Orknay* to our King, and were since annexed by Act of Parliament to the Crown. The Learn'd Lawyer Sir *Thomas Craig* has given an account of this Right of the Crown to these Isles, thus. *Si res ex jure agatur, profecto &* Orcadas *&* Shetlandiam *ad* Scotiam *pertinere, indubium est, sed invalescentibus Danorum armis, cum fere omnia maria Classibus occuparent, silvis materiam abunde sufficientibus*, Dani *&* Norvegi, *vi & armis earum Insularum Imperium sibi vendicarunt, &* Norvegi *Occidentales Insulas*, Hi *tamen eodem modo eas restituerunt, quo acquisiverant. Illi vero* Orcadas *&* Schetlandiam, *post, cum* Margarita Jacobi *tertii Conjuge & Christiani primi filia in dotem dederunt. sub pacto de revertendo, ut nostri loquuntur, cui etiam reversioni postea renuntiarunt, ex vi et tenore fœderis illius, quod inter Serenissimum Principem* Jacobum *quartum, &* Christianum *secundum* Danorum *Regem intercessit*, Alexandrique *sexti* Rom. Pont. *autoritate confirmatum, & in actis Registri* Romanæ *curiæ relatum.*

The Civil Government of these Isles of old was under a *Foudrie*, there was one who was the *Great Foude* (in the time the *Norvegians* possessed these Isles) who had the same power which our Stewarts and Sheriffs now have, in judging both Civil and Criminal Actions, he governed the whole Country, having ten *Fouds* under him, that is Bailies, & there were so many Bailleries in the Country: once in the year, the Great *Foude*, did conveen all the Udalers and Heretors

 anent

anent the Affairs of the countrie, the place of their meeting being the Holm beneath the Manse of *Tingwall*, which retaineth still the Name of *Tinga Holm*, or the *Court Holm*, where they sate in the open fields, in the *Lawting*. When any of the Parents or Masters of the Families died, the Minister, the *Foude*, and some honest Men, conveened at the *Airy-house*, the place of their Meeting, where by a *Shundbill* or Decreet, they ordered the Youngest to have the dwelling house, and the rest, both of Moveables and Heretage, was divided *Gavel kind, sine discrimine sexus vel ætatis*, and the Judge the *Foude*, for his part, had the best Grip, and yet as Bailie hath his Custell-penny. Their Laws were these of *St. Olla*, whom the Natives have in great esteem: he was one of the Kings of *Norway*, of whom strange things are reported, in their Songs they have of him, call'd *Visicks*. Some statutes also concerning their Sheep were made by *Hagen*, Duke of *Norway*, Son to King *Magnus*, as may be seen in the Description of the *Feroe* Isles, page 228: these were directed to the Bishop of *Feroe* and to the provincial Judge of *Hetland*, for the determining controversies amongst the Commonalitie, dated at *Opsle*, *anno* 1040.

Since the year 1669, when it was erected with *Orkney* in a Stuartrie, the Government is by a Stuart, the same that is also Stuart of *Orkney*, who deputeth one or more Deputies, and so many Bailies under him, and he names one to be Admiral Deputie, who takes care of what belongeth to the Admirality. And he who is Commissarie of *Orkney* has jurisdiction in *Shetland* also, who has his Deputies, and takes cognizance of what is proper to that Court. The Seat of Justice, is the Castle of *Scalloway*, where two Head Courts are kept, one at Christmas, the other at Hallowmas, beside Circuits and other particular Courts: the Bailies are substitute in each parish for deciding smaller affairs of Neighbourhood betwixt Man and Man.

The Ecclesiastick Government in these Isles, was an Arch-deanry a dignity by it self, Independent of *Orkney*, the residence of the Arch-dean was at *Tingwall*. He had many Lands belonging to it, both in *Orkney*, and *Shetland*. Since it hath been annexed to the Bishoprick of *Orkney*. Now under Presbyterie the Ministers (in Number eleven) meet four times a year, *viz.* on the first *Wednesday* of each Quarter, each of them hath large bounds, and two or three Churches, in which they preach on the *Sundays per vices*, which makes their toil great: their Maintenance is by Tithes, either Vicarage or *Umboth* Tithes, the Vicarages some of them are in the hands of *Lay-Vicars*, or of the Ministers themselves, the *Umboths* belonging to the Crown.

FINIS.